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Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	SN Muire An Port Mór	(School Name)
At:	Ross Road, Ferrybank, Waterford. X91AF80.	(School Address)

This school is a: (tick appropriate) ☒ primary ☐ post-primary ☐ special school

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019) and 2025, Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 and Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024), the board of management has adopted the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment set out in this document.

The board of management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the department's Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

Name of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP):

James Robinson

Name of the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP/DDLP):

Corinna Quillinan

In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP shall assume responsibilities of the DLP

Name of Relevant Person

James Robinson

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

Phone: 051 851399

Email: admin@ferrybankbns.ie

Under the Children First Act 2015 Relevant Person means a person who is appointed by a provider of a relevant service to be the first point of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement. This person is nominated by the board of management to manage and provide oversight of child protection concerns/allegations of child abuse.

Name of Chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the Chief Executive or their delegate:

Carmel Wemyss

In the event that both DLP and DDLP are absent and unavailable, and where there is no staff member formally acting in their role, the chairperson of the board of management, or in an ETB school the chief executive or their delegate, assumes the role of DLP.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

The board of management recognises that child protection and safeguarding permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In all of these, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The school will:

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.
- Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.
- Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters.
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm happening to children and protect members of school personnel from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of child abuse.
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements as set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 in dealing with child protection matters.
- Adhere to the above principles in relation to any vulnerable adult.

Procedures and Measures in Place

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the *Children First: National Guidance 2017*, and *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd ed. (Tusla, 2024)*, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

> Procedure for the Management of Allegations of Abuse or Misconduct against School Personnel Relating to a Child Availing of Our Service

~ Where any member of school personnel is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in relation to a child attending the school, the school is required to adhere to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of *the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

> Procedure for the Safe Recruitment and Selection of School Personnel to Work With Children

~ The school is required to adhere to the requirements of the Vetting Act. The selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, requires the school to adhere to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016, and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and Youth and available on the gov.ie website and as outlined in Chapter 10 of the procedures.

~ A written protocol is in place authorising immediate action for cases which require an employee to be immediately absented from school for child safeguarding reasons.

> Procedure for Provision of and Access to Child Safeguarding Training and Information, Including the Identification of the Occurrence of Harm

~ The school provides information and training to members of school personnel in relation to the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) as follows:

- ~ The school has provided each member of school personnel, including any new members of school personnel, (employees and volunteers, board of management members, student teachers and those on work experience) with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
- ~ The school ensures that members of school personnel have availed of relevant training and completed child protection training.
- ~ The school encourages board of management members to avail of any relevant training and complete child protection training.
- ~ The board of management ensures that records of all staff and board member child protection training are maintained.

> Procedure for the Reporting of Child Protection or Welfare Concerns to Tusla

~ All members of school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, in relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla. Mandated reporting applies to all registered teachers and any other mandated person who may be employed by the school, for example a chaplain or nurse. A full list of those people who are mandated persons is set out in Appendix 1 of the procedures.

> Procedure for Maintaining a List of the Persons (if any) in the Relevant Service Who Are Mandated Persons

~ There is a procedure in place to maintain a list of mandated persons. Schools may on occasion employ additional staff who are mandated by virtue of their profession. This list will include all registered teachers and identify additional employees that are not registered teachers.

> Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person (In schools this person is the DLP)

~ There is a procedure in place for appointing a relevant person.

The various procedures referred to in this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025, and the *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, the board of management carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.

Note: The procedures and measures in place outlined above, are not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual boards of management shall also include in this section such other procedures and measures that are of relevance to the school.

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

This statement has been published on the school's website or will be made available on request by the school. It has been provided to all members of school personnel, the parents' association (if any), the patron and parents. A copy of this statement and risk assessment will be made available to Tusla and the department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025, the following is the written Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

In undertaking this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils Walk on Wednesday (Park & Stride Initiative) Exit doors of building	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school. Risk of unauthorized access via exit doors.	Yard/playground Supervision Policy. Door buzzer/key fob system; secretary admits visitors, CCTV system. Arrival / dismissal supervised by teachers.
2.	Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child. Risk of harm due to bullying. Inappropriate behaviour. Flight risk.	Code of behaviour and an anti-bullying policy in place in accordance with the department's 'Bí Cineálta' procedures (Circular 55/2024). Supervision policy.
3.	Classroom teaching Movement of pupils around the school (walking to office, SEN rooms, etc.)	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel.	All school personnel provided with a copy of Child Safeguarding Statement (Red folders in each room). Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 made available. Code of conduct for personnel.
4.	One-to-one teaching One-to-one learning support One-to-one counselling	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situations. Risk of false accusations.	The school has in place clear procedures and policy for one-to-one teaching and counselling activities. There should be a table between teacher and pupil One to one teaching is carried out in situations where there is a glass panel in the door if possible Work being carried out by the Special Needs Assistants will be carried out on the direction of the class teacher Code of Conduct for teachers (Teaching Council)

Child Protection Statement and Risk Assessment

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
5.	Outdoor teaching activities School outings Swimming lessons	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities or swimming.	Policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings (School Tour Policy). Swimming Policy implemented in full. Supervision Policy.
6.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities (e.g. Ferrybank GAA Club, Ferrybank AFC etc.)	Risk of child being harmed by a member of staff of another organisation or other person.	School Tour Policy followed. Procedures for the use of external sports coaches. Garda vetting check requirements.
7.	Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to children with special educational needs who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical or intimate care risks.	Special educational needs policy. Intimate Care Policy/plan in respect of students who require such care.
8.	Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm to children with specific vulnerabilities/needs or medical needs.	Policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils. First Aid policy and procedures (Accident & Injury Policy / Health & Safety Plan).
9.	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing / using computers, social media and other devices in school Online / remote learning	Harm to pupils	Mobile phones banned in school Computers/ ipads only used under supervision Social media blocked by school
10.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe Prevention and dealing with bullying/racism	Risk of harm due to bullying or racism. Risk of harm not being recognized or reported properly. Risk of inadequate or non teaching of same	Full implementation of the Stay Safe Programme and SPHE curriculum. Anti-bullying policy under 'Bí Cineálta' guidelines. Anti-racism awareness initiatives (e.g. Show Racism the Red Card).
11.	Recruitment of school personnel including teachers, SNAs, caretakers, secretaries, cleaners	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate vetting or training.	Adherence to the Vetting Act and statutory requirements of the National Vetting Bureau. Adherence to Department of Education circulars for recruitment. Maintain training records.
12.	External Tutors / Guest Speakers Volunteers/Parents in school activities Sports coaches	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a volunteer or visitor.	Procedures for the use of external persons to supplement the curriculum. Garda vetting screening applies to regular volunteers. Teacher always present.
13.	Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours or after-school activities	Risk of child being harmed by a visitor/contractor to the school.	Door buzzer/key fob system; secretary admits visitors, CCTV system.

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
			Contractor accompanied by caretaker if present during school hours.
14.	Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/ instruction external to the school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities.	School Tour and Outings Policy applied. Code of behaviour and playground/yard supervision policy / procedures applied where relevant.
15.	Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour or inappropriate sanctioning.	Code of behaviour for pupils in place. Code of conduct for school personnel. Mobile phones banned plus policy on same. Parental Complaints Procedure.
16.	Students participating in work experience in the school Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm caused by unverified or untrained placement students.	Policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements and work experience (Work Experience & Placement Policy). Provision of Safeguarding Statement. Garda vetting procedures. Teacher always present.
17.	Use of video / photography / other media to record school events	Risk of harm caused by accessing/circulating inappropriate material via digital devices or social media.	Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) controls image capture and media sharing consent requirements.
18.	After-school use of school premises by other organisations Use of school premises during the school day	Risk of child being harmed by an external user or unverified person.	Door buzzer/key fob infrastructure control. Health and safety policy. After-school rental terms include safeguarding criteria compliance.
19.	Student Council Meetings / Green School Committee Meetings / Other student-adult group meetings	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between a child and an adult or child.	Code of conduct for school personnel. Clear standard rules for meeting layouts in transparent/visible environments.
20.	Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities (Ethnic minorities/migrants, Traveller community, LGBT, children in care)	Risk of harm due to target discrimination, neglect or isolation.	Stay Safe Programme, SPHE curriculum, Wellbeing initiatives. Reporting of concerns to Tusla in line with the Child Protection Procedures 2025.
21.	Use of toilet areas in school	Inappropriate behaviour	Toilets in classrooms where possible Where there are shared toilets, specific cubicles allocated to individual class Supervision Policy

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	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
22.	Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	Harm not recognised or reported promptly after training has been received. Inadequate or training missed by staff.	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are made available to all school personnel DLP & DDLP attended Oide face to face training in New Procedures 2025 All staff attended Oide training in new procedures 2025 All Staff to view Túsla training module & any other online training offered by Oide BOM keeps all records of staff and board training and ensures any training missed will be facilitated.
23.	Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	Injury to pupils and staff	Health and Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Policy
24.	Emergency situations	Harm to pupils	Critical Incident Plan in place
25.	Management of provision of hot lunches	Harm to pupils	Vetting for Operative Lunches handed to pupils and placed in plastic boxes Provision for allergies
26.	After School Homework Club (if made available)	Harm to pupils	Proper vetting and procedures Adequate supervision
27.	Summer Programme	Harm to pupils	Proper vetting & procedures DLP or DDLP present Mobile phones banned Internet Acceptable Use Policy Adequate supervision
28.	Parents collecting children early	Risk to pupils	Sign out system with secretary.

Online Safety

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* published in January 2019 clarifies that organisations providing relevant services to children should consider the specific issue of online safety when carrying out their risk assessment and preparing their Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

The Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for primary and post-primary schools (April 2020) advises of the importance of teachers maintaining the safe and ethical use of the internet during distance learning and assisting parents and guardians to be aware of their role also. Schools should ensure that their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) informs and guides remote or distance learning activity.

Risk in the context of this Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is the risk of 'harm' as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in the Children First Act 2015: 'harm' means, in relation to a child— (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on **14th October 2026** (*most recent review date*).

Signed:*		Date: 14/10/2026
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Chairperson of the board of management

Signed:*		Date: 14/10/2026
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Principal/Secretary to the board of management

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in **September 2027** (*expected review date*).

** Document to be printed and signed with original signatures*

Appendix - Location of copies of the Child Protection Procedures and Children First Guidance

This may be in the form of specifying the online location for the procedures (Department of Education and Youth website www.gov.ie/childprotectionschools and/or the school website), providing a link to the Children First National Guidance 2017 Children First National Guidance 2017.pdf, and stating the number and location of hard copies of these procedures available in the school.

The **Child Protection Procedures 2025** are available from the following:

- Secretary's office (hardcopy)
- Shared drive for staff
 - Go to *Plean Scoile* folder
 - Click *Organisational Policies* folder
 - Select *Child Safeguarding* folder
- Department of Education website - <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/policy-information/child-protection-procedures-in-schools/#child-protection-procedures-2025-and-supports-for-schools>

The **Children First National Guidance 2017** is available from the following:

- Secretary's office (hardcopy)
- Tusla website - https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf
- Gov.ie - <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/publications/children-first-national-guidelines-for-the-protection-and-welfare-of-children-2017/>

The school's **Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment** is available from the following:

- Displayed inside the front door at reception (hardcopy)
- Red folder in each classroom (hardcopy)
- Shared drive
 - Go to *Plean Scoile* folder
 - Click *Organisational Policies* folder
 - Select *Child Safeguarding* folder
- School website under the *Downloads* tab - <https://www.ferrybankbns.ie/downloads>