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Newpark Comprehensive School

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

For:	Newpark Comprehensive School
At:	Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

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):

Mr. Eoin Norton

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

Ms. Lynn Anderson

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

Name of Relevant Person

Mr. Eoin Norton

(In schools this person is the DLP)

Relevant Person can be contacted on:

01-2883724

eoin.norton@newparkschool.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:

Mr. Paul Kingston

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.

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 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.

In accordance with Children First, this statement is provided to all school personnel and is available to parents, Tusla and members of the public upon request. The Child Safeguarding Statement is also provided to the patron and the parents' association and shall be made available on request to the department. A copy of the Safeguarding Statement is also published on the school's website. Children First also requires that the Child Safeguarding Statement be displayed in a prominent place in the school and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 further require that this shall be near the main entrance to the school.

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

	List of School Activities	Risks Identified Against Each School Activity	Procedures/Measures in place to Mitigate Risk
1.	Daily arrival and dismissal of students	Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel	The school has supervision guidelines and a staff roster in place to ensure appropriate supervision of students before school, during breaks, lunchtime and after school activities, including areas off campus
2.	Recreation breaks for students	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children during school Risk of harm to students in 5th and 6th year while off campus at break/lunchtimes	The school has supervision guidelines and a staff roster in place to ensure appropriate supervision of students before school, during breaks, lunchtime and after school activities, including areas off campus
3.	Classroom teaching	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	The school has a health and safety policy Teachers are required to adhere to the Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers as published by the Teaching Council 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 The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff The school has in place a Relationships and Behaviour policy for all students
4.	One-to-one teaching, learning support or counselling	Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation	Teachers are required to conduct one-to-one teaching in a public area or in a classroom/office with a window in the door

			Guidance Counsellors and Chaplain have in place guidelines for one-to-one counselling
5.	Outdoor teaching activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities	The school has a health and safety policy
6.	Online teaching and learning remotely	Risk of harm specific to online teaching and learning remotely Risk of harm through online communication Risk of cyberbullying exposure to inappropriate content	Teachers have received guidance in relation to procedures and protocols when teaching and interacting with students remotely via digital means. The school has in place a Relationships and Behaviour policy for all students The school has in place an IT acceptable use policy in respect of usage of ICT by all students, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely and has communicated this policy to all school stakeholders
7.	After school evening study or extracurricular activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment</i> The school has a health and safety policy
8.	School outings	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g., school trip, interschool event etc.	The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
9.	School trips involving overnight stay School trips involving foreign travel	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	The school has a trips policy The school has in place a Relationships and Behaviour policy for all students

		Risk of harm by member of school personnel communicating with students in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner	
10.	Use of toilet/changing rooms/ shower areas in school	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children during school and at after-school activities	The school has supervision guidelines to ensure adequate supervision of children in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
11.	Annual sports day or sports activity days	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending school activities	The school has a health and safety policy
12.	Fundraising events involving students	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities	The school adheres to requirements of the Garda Vetting Legislation
13.	Events involving visiting students not enrolled in Newpark	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending school activities	All visiting students are under the supervision of a member of school's teaching staff All adult visitors to the school must sign in at the school office and wear a lanyard for the duration of their visit
14.	Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities	The school has in place a Relationships and Behaviour policy for all students
15.	School transport arrangements including taxi use for resource students	Risk of harm to children with AEN who have particular vulnerabilities	The school has an Additional Educational Needs Policy
16.	Care of children with additional educational needs, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to child while child is receiving intimate care	The school has an Additional Educational Needs Policy The school has an intimate care plan in respect of individual students who require such care

17.	Care of any vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed	Risk of harm to children with AEN who have particular vulnerabilities	The school has an Additional Educational Needs Policy The school has an intimate care plan in respect of individual students who require such care
18.	Management of challenging behaviour amongst students, including appropriate use of restraint where required	Risk of child being harmed in school by a member of school personnel Risk of child being harmed in school by another child	The school has in place a Relationships and Behaviour policy for all students
19.	Administration of Medicine	Risk of child being harmed in school by a member of school personnel	The school has in place procedures for the administration of medication to students
20.	Administration of First Aid	Risk of child being harmed in school by a member of school personnel	The school has a health and safety policy The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid First aid trained staff available
21.	Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Wellbeing	Risk of students lacking the relevant knowledge and skills in relation to their social, personal and health education.	The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle The school promotes safe internet and social media use through its SPHE, Lifeskills, and Information Technology programs.
22.	Prevention of and responding to bullying amongst students	Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of harm due to racism	The school has a <i>Bí Cineálta Policy to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour</i> which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Bí Cineálta Procedures to Prevent and</i>

			<i>Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary And Post-Primary Schools.</i> The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
23.	Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Risk of harm where members of school personnel have not received appropriate training. Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment</i> <i>The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025</i> are made available to all school personnel School personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015</i> as well as supporting the continued implementation of the best practice guidance set out in <i>Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017</i> and its addenda, including the <i>addendum to Children First 2019 and 2025</i> The school: • Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement • Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement • Encourages staff to avail of relevant training • Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training

			• Maintains records of all staff and Board member training
24.	Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Risk of child being harmed in school by a volunteer or visitor to the school	The school has in place procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
25.	Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children at after-school activities	The school has in place procedures for the use of external sports coaches and external persons to support extra-curricular activities The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
26.	Care of students with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as: • Students from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community • Lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBTQ+) students • Students perceived to be LGBTQ+ • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Students in care • Students on Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) with TUSLA	Risk of harm due to bullying of child Risk of harm due to racism Risk of harm to children with AEN who have particular vulnerabilities	The school has a <i>Bí Cineálta Policy to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour</i> which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's <i>Bí Cineálta Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i>. The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives The school has an Additional Educational Needs Policy

	• Children with medical needs		
27.	Recruitment of school personnel including: • Teachers/SNAs • Caretakers/ Secretaries/ Contract Cleaners • Sports coaches/coordinators • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers and/or Parents/Guardians in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities	Risk if harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
28.	Use of Information and Communication Technology by students in school, including social media	Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones, and other devices while at school Risk of allowing children access to the internet where they could become exposed to harm, including harm of assault or sexual abuse (as set out in Section 2 of the Act)	The school has in place an IT acceptable use policy in respect of usage of ICT by all students, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely and has communicated this policy to all school stakeholders The school participates in the Schools Broadband (Content Filtering) Program (SBP) managed by the PDST Technology in Education. The school has in place a Student Device Policy in respect of usage of mobile phones and other devices by all students and a Student Device User Agreement in respect of usage of student devices purchased by parents/guardians, in line with Circular 0038/2018.

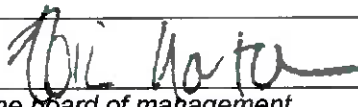
29.	Applications of consequences under the School's Relationships and Behaviour Policy, including detention of students, etc.	Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour	The school has in place a Relationships and Behaviour policy for all students
30.	Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere	Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	The school has in place procedures in respect of students at the school undertaking work experience in the school and in external organisations
31.	Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's <i>Child Safeguarding Statement</i> The school has in place an induction process in respect of student teacher placements
32.	Use of video/photograph/ other media to record classroom and other school related activities	Risk of harm by member of school personnel communicating with students in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating	Posters are on display in the school to remind staff, students and visitors to the school that photography, recording or filming are prohibited on campus
33.	After school use of school premises by other organisations	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	The school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is on display at the main entrance of the school External groups provide their own Child Safeguarding Statement
34.	Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day	Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school	All visitors to the school must sign in at the school office and wear a lanyard for the duration of their visit The school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is on display at the main entrance of the school

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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed by the board of management on 23 September 2026.

Signed:*		Date:	23 SEP 2026
Chairperson of the board of management			

Signed:*		Date:	23 SEP 2026
Principal/Secretary to the board of management			

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is expected to be reviewed again in September 2027.

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

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

Links to the Children First Act 2015, the Children First National Guidance 2017 and the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 are available on the school website newparkschool.ie/child-protection. A hard copy of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 is available in the staffroom or from the school office upon request.