



Laois Leisure

Child Safeguarding Statement

2026

Provider	Laois Leisure
Nature of service	Public leisure centre services for children and young people
Last reviewed	June 2026
Next review due	No later than February 2028, or sooner following a material change
Designated Liaison Person	Michael Quirke
Deputy Designated Liaison Person	Pam Quirke
Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015	Sean Quirke, General Manager, sean@laoisleisure.ie

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

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1. Name and nature of service

Laois Leisure provides public leisure centre services to children and young people, including swimming lessons, school swimming lessons, public swimming, gym access, Sauna and steam room access, astro pitch activities, inflatable pool sessions, changing facilities, reception and public areas, spectator areas, and related leisure centre activities.

Laois Leisure is a provider of a relevant service for the purpose of the Children First Act 2015 where children and young people avail of the services listed above. This Child Safeguarding Statement sets out the principles and procedures to be observed to ensure, as far as practicable, that children are safe from harm while availing of Laois Leisure services.

2. Principles to safeguard children from harm

Laois Leisure staff have a duty of care to safeguard children and young people from harm while they are availing of our services. Laois Leisure will ensure the safety and protection of children through adherence to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, the Children First Act 2015, Tusla guidance and relevant safeguarding guidance for sport and leisure settings.

- The welfare and safety of the child is the first and paramount consideration.
- All children have the right to be protected from harm, abuse, neglect, bullying and poor practice.
- Children should be treated with dignity, respect, fairness and sensitivity.
- The needs of children who may be particularly vulnerable, including children with additional needs or disabilities, must be considered in planning, supervision and communication.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff, contractors and volunteers must know how to recognise, respond to, record and report concerns.
- Staff should avoid being alone with a child where practicable. Where one-to-one interaction is unavoidable, it should take place in an open, visible and accountable environment.
- Parents, guardians, schools, coaches and group leaders have a shared responsibility for supervision and safe behaviour in line with Laois Leisure procedures.
- Laois Leisure will promote a culture where concerns can be raised early and addressed appropriately.

3. Definitions used in this Statement

Child: A person under 18 years of age.

Harm: For the purpose of this Child Safeguarding Statement, harm has the meaning assigned in the Children First Act 2015 and includes assault, ill-treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects, or is likely to seriously affect, the child's health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child.

Child protection or welfare concern: Any concern that a child has been harmed, is being harmed, or is at risk of being harmed. Concerns may arise from a disclosure, observation, allegation, complaint, incident, pattern of behaviour, poor practice or information received from another person or agency.

DLP: The Designated Liaison Person is the person appointed to act as the resource person to staff and to liaise with Tusla where child protection or welfare concerns arise. The DLP for Laois Leisure is Michael Quirke. The Deputy DLP is Pam Quirke.

Relevant Person: The first point of contact in respect of this Child Safeguarding Statement. The Relevant Person for this Statement is Sean Quirke, General Manager, sean@laoisleisure.ie.

4. Legal and guidance basis

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the following legislation and guidance:

- Children First Act 2015, including the requirement to undertake a risk assessment, prepare a Child Safeguarding Statement, appoint a Relevant Person and review the Statement at intervals of not more than 24 months.
- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children.
- Tusla, Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.
- Tusla guidance on developing and implementing Child Safeguarding Statements.
- Sport Ireland, Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport.
- National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and Garda National Vetting Bureau procedures.
- Data protection and confidentiality obligations relevant to safeguarding records.

5. Safeguarding roles and responsibilities

Role	Safeguarding responsibility
Provider / Senior Management	Ensure the Statement, risk assessment, policies, procedures, training, recruitment, vetting and monitoring arrangements are implemented and reviewed.
Relevant Person	Act as the first point of contact in respect of this Child Safeguarding Statement and provide information about the Statement on request.
Designated Liaison Person	Receive and consider child protection and welfare concerns, support staff, record decisions and report concerns to Tusla where reasonable grounds for concern exist.
Deputy Designated Liaison Person	Act in the absence of the DLP and receive concerns where the DLP is unavailable or is the subject of a concern.
Duty Manager	Ensure daily operational safeguarding procedures are followed, support staff, respond to incidents and escalate concerns to the DLP or Deputy DLP.
All Staff / Workers / Volunteers	Follow safeguarding procedures, maintain professional boundaries, act on concerns without delay, complete records and attend training.
Schools / Coaches / Group Leaders	Supervise children in their care in accordance with agreed procedures, especially during group movement, changing, toilet access and collection.
Parents / Guardians	Comply with admissions, supervision, collection, behaviour, photography and changing area procedures.

6. Compliance cross-reference

The table below shows where the required Child Safeguarding Statement elements are addressed in this document.

Required element	Where addressed
Specify the service being provided	Sections 1 and 2
Specify the principles and procedures to safeguard children from harm	Sections 2, 8 and 9
Undertake and include a risk assessment	Section 7
Procedure to manage risks identified in the risk assessment	Sections 7, 8 and 9

Procedure for safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers	Section 8.5
Procedure for providing information and training, including identifying occurrence of harm	Section 8.7
Procedure for reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla	Sections 8.1 to 8.4
Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons	Section 8.8 and Appendix 2
Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person	Section 8.9
Implementation, display and review	Section 10

7. Child safeguarding risk assessment

Laois Leisure has carried out an assessment of the potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. The table below identifies key safeguarding risks and the procedures and controls for managing those risks. This risk assessment should be read together with the procedures in Sections 8 and 9.

Area / Activity	Safeguarding Risk	Controls	Person Responsible	Risk Rating
Reception & Public Areas	Child separated from parent/group	Reception procedures, staff supervision, missing child procedure	Reception Staff, Duty Manager	Medium
Reception & Public Areas	Unauthorised adult approaching child	CCTV, staff presence, safeguarding reporting procedures	All Staff, Duty Manager	Medium
Reception & Public Areas	Photography of children	No photography policy, signage, staff intervention	All Staff	Low
Reception & Public Areas	Child disclosure not acted upon	DLP procedures, safeguarding training, incident reporting process	DLP, All Staff	Low
Changing Village	Inappropriate adult-child interaction	Staff presence, regular patrols, safeguarding procedures	Changing Village Staff, Duty Manager	Medium
Changing Village	Camera device use	No camera device policy, signage, staff monitoring	All Staff	Medium
Changing Village	Bullying	Staff monitoring, anti-bullying procedures, incident reporting	Changing Village Staff, Duty Manager	Medium
Changing Village	Child left unsupervised	Parent/school supervision requirements, staff monitoring	Parents, Teachers, Staff	Low
Private Swimming Lessons	One-to-one interaction	Open poolside environment, teacher visibility, safeguarding training	Swim Teachers, Duty Manager	Medium
Swimming Lessons	Customer/child interaction	Open poolside environment, guardian visibility, swimming teacher visibility, lifeguard visibility, safeguarding training	All Staff	Low
Swimming Lessons	Child requiring toilet access	Designated escort procedure, supervised movement	Swim Teachers, Changing Village Staff	Low
Swimming Lessons	Incorrect collection by adult	Parent collection procedures, teacher supervision	Swim Teachers, Parents/Guardians	Medium
Swimming Lessons	Bullying between swimmers	Teacher supervision, behaviour management procedures	Swim Teachers	Medium
Public Swimming	Child attending without supervision	Admissions policies, lifeguard supervision	Lifeguards, Duty Manager	Low
Public Swimming	Inappropriate behaviour by public user	Lifeguard supervision, staff intervention procedures	Lifeguards, Duty Manager	Medium
Public Swimming	Photography/filming	No photography policy, signage, staff monitoring	All Staff	Medium
School Swimming Lessons	Customer/child interaction	Open poolside environment, teacher visibility, swimming teacher visibility, lifeguard visibility, safeguarding training	All Staff	Low
School Swimming Lessons	Device use/photography	Strict no-device policy, signage, staff enforcement	All Staff	Low
School Swimming Lessons	Pupil movement through facility	School group movement procedures, supervised transitions	School Staff, Swim Teachers	Low
School Swimming Lessons	Additional needs pupils distressed	Pre-session planning, support arrangements	School Staff, Swim Teachers	Low
Gym	Adult approaching junior member	Staff supervision, safeguarding awareness	Gym Staff, Duty Manager	Medium
Gym	Photography/social media content	No photography policy, signage, staff monitoring	Gym Staff	Low
Gym	Inappropriate conversations	Staff supervision, reporting procedures	Gym Staff, Duty Manager	Medium

Area / Activity	Safeguarding Risk	Controls	Person Responsible	Risk Rating
Astro Pitch	Child separated from group	Coach supervision, attendance checks	Coaches, Group Leaders	Medium
Astro Pitch	Bullying during activities	Behaviour code, supervision, reporting procedures	Coaches, Group Leaders	Medium
Astro Pitch	Unauthorised adult access	Controlled access, staff monitoring	Staff, Duty Manager	Medium
Astro Pitch	Injury requiring treatment	First aid procedures, open treatment areas	Coaches, First Aiders	Low
Inflatable Sessions	Child separated from parent	Entry controls, supervision, attendance monitoring	Lifeguard, Duty Manager	Medium
Inflatable Sessions	Rough play or bullying	Staff supervision, behaviour policy	Lifeguard	Medium
Inflatable Sessions	Overcrowding	Capacity limits, active monitoring	Lifeguard, Duty Manager	Low
Inflatable Sessions	Physical contact	Staff supervision, incident reporting procedures	Event Staff, Duty Manager	Medium
Spectator Areas	Adult observing children inappropriately	Staff vigilance, safeguarding reporting procedures	All Staff	Low
Spectator Areas	Photography or filming	No photography policy, signage, staff enforcement	All Staff	Low
Toilets	Child approached by unknown adult	Regular monitoring, safeguarding awareness	Staff, Duty Manager	Medium
Saunas / Steam Rooms	Child entering adult-only areas	Age restrictions, supervision requirements, signage	Duty Manager, Staff	Low
Staff	Unsuitable person working with children	Garda vetting, recruitment procedures, references	General Manager, HR	Low
Staff	Failure to report concerns	Safeguarding training, DLP procedures	All Staff, DLP	Low
Staff	Poor practice not challenged	Complaints procedure, management oversight	Management Team	Low
Facility Wide	Bullying (physical, verbal, online)	Anti-bullying policy, reporting procedures, staff intervention	All Staff	Medium
Facility Wide	Child abuse disclosure	DLP reporting procedures, Children First guidance	DLP, All Staff	Low
Facility Wide	Emergency evacuation involving children	Emergency Action Plan, staff training, evacuation drills	Duty Manager, All Staff	Low
Facility Wide	Lack of safeguarding awareness	Staff induction, safeguarding training, policy reviews	Management Team, DLP	Low
Facility Wide / Online Safety	Risk of harm through inappropriate digital communication, social media, online images, cyberbullying or misuse of devices	No photography/device policy, social media controls, online safety guidance, staff monitoring, reporting procedures and consent requirements for any approved imagery	Management Team, DLP, All Staff	Low

8. Procedures supporting the Child Safeguarding Statement

8.1 Procedure for reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla

1. Any staff member, worker, volunteer or contractor who has a child protection or welfare concern must report the concern without delay to the DLP or, if the DLP is unavailable, to the Deputy DLP.
2. The staff member must complete a written record as soon as possible, using the child's own words where relevant and recording facts, observations, dates, times, names and actions taken.
3. The DLP will consider the concern in line with Children First guidance and will make a report to Tusla where there are reasonable grounds for concern.
4. Where a child is in immediate danger and Tusla cannot be contacted, An Garda Síochána will be contacted without delay.
5. Staff must not investigate child protection concerns themselves. Their role is to listen, reassure, record accurately and report promptly.
6. Records will be stored securely and shared only with those who need the information to protect the child or fulfil statutory duties.

8.2 Procedure for responding to a child disclosure

- Listen calmly and allow the child to speak at their own pace.
- Reassure the child that they have done the right thing by telling an adult.
- Do not promise secrecy. Explain that information may need to be shared with people who can help keep them safe.
- Do not ask leading questions or investigate. Clarify only what is necessary to understand immediate safety needs.
- Record the disclosure as soon as possible, using the child's own words where possible.
- Report the matter immediately to the DLP or Deputy DLP.

8.3 Procedure for immediate safety concerns

If there is an immediate risk to a child, staff must take proportionate steps to keep the child safe. This may include remaining with the child in a visible and supervised area, seeking assistance from the Duty Manager, contacting the parent or guardian where appropriate, contacting Tusla, or contacting An Garda Síochána where there is immediate danger and Tusla cannot be reached.

Immediate safety action must be recorded and reported to the DLP or Deputy DLP as soon as possible.

8.4 Procedure for managing allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers or volunteers

1. Any allegation, suspicion or concern that a child has been harmed, or may be at risk of harm, by a staff member, worker, contractor or volunteer must be reported immediately to the DLP or Deputy DLP.
2. The priority will be the safety and welfare of the child and any other child who may be at risk.
3. The DLP will follow Children First guidance and, where reasonable grounds for concern exist, will report the matter to Tusla. Where there is immediate danger and Tusla cannot be contacted, An Garda Síochána will be contacted without delay.
4. Parents or guardians will be informed as appropriate, unless doing so would place the child at further risk or interfere with a statutory assessment or investigation.
5. Where the concern relates to the DLP, the report must be made to the Deputy DLP, General Manager or another senior manager, who will follow this procedure.
6. Any employment or disciplinary process will be managed separately from the child protection reporting process, while ensuring fair procedures and the safety of children.

8.5 Procedure for safe recruitment and selection

Recruitment and selection procedures must support Laois Leisure's duty to safeguard children. All appointments to roles involving access to children or positions of trust must be subject to appropriate safer recruitment measures.

- Recruitment advertising and applicant information should include a clear safeguarding statement.
- Job descriptions should identify whether the role involves work with, access to, or responsibility for children.
- Applicants should provide proof of identity, relevant qualifications, employment history and written references.
- Shortlisting and interview questions should test suitability, professional boundaries, safeguarding awareness and attitudes to working with children.
- Gaps in employment history, inconsistencies, unexplained departures or concerns arising from references must be explored and satisfactorily resolved before appointment.
- At least one member of the interview panel should have safeguarding awareness appropriate to recruitment decisions.
- Offers of appointment should be conditional on satisfactory checks, references, relevant training and Garda vetting where required.
- All new staff must complete induction before undertaking unsupervised duties involving children.

8.6 Garda vetting procedure

Where a role involves relevant work or activities with children, Garda vetting will be completed in accordance with the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and Garda National Vetting Bureau procedures. Vetting is one part of safer recruitment and does not replace references, interview, induction, training or management supervision.

- No person will commence relevant work with children until required vetting and recruitment checks have been completed and reviewed.
- Applicants under 18 who are eligible for vetting must have parent or guardian consent in accordance with Garda vetting requirements. A person under 16 cannot complete eVetting.
- Vetting disclosures must be considered fairly, confidentially and in line with the nature of the role and safeguarding responsibilities.
- Vetting records and decisions will be stored securely and accessed only by authorised personnel.
- Any new information that may affect suitability to work with children must be reported to management immediately.

8.7 Procedure for safeguarding information, training and identifying the occurrence of harm

Laois Leisure is committed to providing staff with the information, instruction and training needed to recognise, respond to, record and report safeguarding concerns.

- All staff will receive safeguarding information during induction, including this Child Safeguarding Statement, the risk assessment, reporting procedures, DLP contact details and relevant codes of behaviour.
- Staff assigned to activities where they work directly with children and young people will complete appropriate child safeguarding training.
- Safeguarding training for staff will be refreshed at least every three years, or earlier where required by role, guidance or a material change in procedures.
- Training will include signs and indicators of neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse, responding to disclosures, reporting routes, professional boundaries, safe supervision, anti-bullying, photography/device controls and record keeping.
- A record of safeguarding training needs, training completed and refresher dates will be maintained.
- Management will use briefings, supervision, audits and incident reviews to reinforce safeguarding expectations.

8.8 Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons

Laois Leisure will identify whether any staff member, worker or volunteer is a mandated person under the Children First Act 2015. Where mandated persons are engaged by the service, Laois Leisure will maintain an up-to-date list of those persons, their roles and the basis on which they are mandated.

The mandated persons list will be reviewed during induction, when roles change, when new appointments are made and as part of each review of this Child Safeguarding Statement. Where Laois Leisure has no mandated persons, this will be recorded and reviewed regularly.

8.9 Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person

Laois Leisure will appoint a Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015 to be the first point of contact in respect of this Child Safeguarding Statement. The Relevant Person will provide information about the Statement and associated risk assessment and make a copy available on request.

The Relevant Person will be appointed by senior management. The appointment will be reviewed at least every 24 months, or sooner if there is a material change in the service, management structure or safeguarding arrangements. The Relevant Person for this Statement is Sean Quirke, General Manager, sean@laoisleisure.ie.

8.10 Procedure for complaints, poor practice and breaches of the code of behaviour

Concerns about poor practice, unsafe behaviour, breaches of professional boundaries, bullying, inappropriate language, failure to supervise or failure to follow procedures must be reported to the Duty Manager or senior management. Where the concern may also be a child protection or welfare concern, the DLP or Deputy DLP must be informed without delay.

All complaints and poor practice concerns will be recorded, reviewed and addressed through management procedures. Lessons learned will be used to improve training, supervision, risk controls and policy implementation.

8.11 Record keeping, confidentiality and information sharing

- Safeguarding records must be factual, accurate, dated, signed and stored securely.
- Records should distinguish between fact, observation, professional judgement and information received from others.
- Information must be shared only with those who need it to protect the child, manage risk or fulfil statutory responsibilities.
- Staff must not discuss safeguarding concerns with unauthorised persons, on social media or in public areas.
- Data protection requirements must be respected, while recognising that the safety and welfare of the child is the primary consideration.

9. Activity and facility-specific safeguarding procedures

9.1 General supervision and professional boundaries

- Staff must maintain professional boundaries at all times and must not engage in inappropriate personal relationships, communications, gifts, secrets or social media contact with children.
- One-to-one interaction with a child should be avoided where practicable. Where unavoidable, it must take place in an open, visible and accountable setting.
- Any necessary physical contact must be appropriate to the activity, proportionate, explained where possible and never secretive.
- Staff must challenge unsafe behaviour, bullying, inappropriate comments, photography/device misuse and unauthorised access to children's areas.

9.2 Reception and public areas

Reception and public areas will be monitored through staff presence, CCTV where applicable, clear admissions procedures, visitor awareness and safeguarding reporting procedures. If a child becomes separated from a parent,

guardian, school or group, staff will follow the missing child procedure and keep the child in a visible supervised area while the responsible adult is identified.

9.3 Changing village and toilets

- Changing village and toilet areas will be monitored through regular staff presence and patrols, carried out in a manner that respects privacy and dignity.
- Photography, filming and use of camera-enabled devices are prohibited on poolside and in changing and toilet areas.
- Children must be supervised in line with parent, school, group and Laois Leisure requirements.
- Staff should not be alone with a child in changing or toilet areas except in an emergency or where necessary to prevent immediate harm. Where assistance is required, a second adult should be present or nearby where practicable.
- Concerns about behaviour, bullying, unauthorised adults, device use or unsupervised children must be addressed immediately and reported to the Duty Manager and, where relevant, the DLP.

9.4 Swimming lessons

Swimming lessons will be delivered in an open poolside environment with teacher visibility, lifeguard visibility and supervision appropriate to the lesson. Teachers must maintain active supervision and manage behaviour in line with the behaviour policy.

Toilet access: If a child in lessons requires the toilet, the child must be escorted from the lesson area to the agreed handover point by a member of staff. The child will be handed to the parent or guardian, who will take responsibility for toilet access and return the child to the agreed handover point. A staff member will then escort the child back to the lesson and into the supervision of the teacher.

Collection: At the end of the lesson, swimmers will be escorted by their teacher to the agreed collection point. The teacher will ensure that children are collected by their parent or guardian, or by another authorised adult in line with the collection procedure. The teacher will not leave the group until all children have been collected or handed over to the Duty Manager.

Behaviour management: Where behaviour is unacceptable or unsafe, the teacher will correct the behaviour clearly and calmly. If the behaviour continues or creates risk, the parent or guardian will be informed and the Duty Manager may remove the child from the activity where necessary.

9.5 Public swimming

Children must be supervised in line with Laois Leisure's Normal Operating Procedures and admissions policy. Children under 8 must be accompanied by a responsible adult in the water at all times. Children aged 8 to 10 must be supervised by a responsible adult in accordance with the NOP and admissions policy. Children aged 11 and over may attend without adult supervision where permitted by the admissions policy. Reception staff will apply the admissions policy consistently.

Lifeguards will supervise the pool in accordance with the NOP. Where a lifeguard sees behaviour that is unacceptable or may present a safeguarding risk, they will intervene as appropriate and inform the Duty Manager. Safeguarding concerns must be reported to the DLP or Deputy DLP.

9.6 School swimming lessons

- School groups must be supervised by school staff at all times while moving through the facility, changing, showering and assembling for lessons.
- On arrival, a designated member of Laois Leisure staff will meet the group and support agreed movement through the facility. School staff retain responsibility for the supervision and welfare of pupils during changing and toilet access.
- Once pupils enter the pool hall and are handed over for the lesson, swim teachers will supervise lesson activity in the pool environment, supported by lifeguard visibility.
- At the end of the lesson, pupils will be handed back to school staff at the agreed handover point.

- Where a pupil requires toilet access, the pupil will be escorted from the lesson area to the agreed handover point by Laois Leisure staff and handed to the supervising school staff member. The school staff member remains responsible for the pupil during toilet access and will return the pupil to the agreed handover point.
- Additional needs, distress, behaviour concerns or safeguarding concerns should be managed through pre-session planning, communication with school staff and reporting procedures.

9.7 Gym / junior members

Junior members using the gym will be supervised in line with Laois Leisure gym rules, age restrictions, induction requirements and staff monitoring. Gym staff must maintain safeguarding awareness, challenge inappropriate conversations or behaviour, prevent photography/social media misuse and report concerns to the Duty Manager and DLP where appropriate.

9.8 Astro pitch activities

Coaches and group leaders are responsible for supervising children using the astro pitch, including attendance checks and behaviour management. Laois Leisure staff will monitor access and respond to safeguarding concerns. First aid should be provided in an open and visible area where practicable, with dignity and privacy respected. Additional staff support should be requested where required.

9.9 Inflatable sessions

During inflatable sessions, lifeguards and event staff will actively supervise participants, manage numbers, monitor entry and exit controls and enforce the behaviour policy. Rough play, bullying, unsafe behaviour or behaviour that places a child at risk will be addressed immediately. Where behaviour continues, the child may be removed from the session and the parent, guardian or group leader will be informed.

9.10 Spectator areas

Spectator areas will be monitored through staff vigilance and safeguarding reporting procedures. Adults observing children inappropriately, attempting unauthorised contact, taking photographs or filming without approval, or behaving in a manner that causes concern must be challenged and reported to the Duty Manager.

9.11 Saunas and steam rooms

Saunas and steam rooms are adult-only areas. Age restrictions, signage and supervision requirements will be enforced by staff. Children attempting to enter adult-only areas must be redirected and the parent, guardian, school or group leader informed where appropriate.

9.12 Photography, filming, devices and social media

- Photography and filming are prohibited within Laois Leisure premises unless expressly authorised by management for a specific purpose.
- Photography, filming and camera-enabled devices are strictly prohibited on poolside and in changing areas, toilets and other privacy-sensitive areas.
- Any authorised image or video of a child must be subject to prior consent, clear purpose, appropriate supervision, data protection requirements and a safeguarding risk check.
- Staff must not use personal devices to photograph or communicate with children except where expressly authorised by management for a specific operational purpose.
- Concerns about photography, filming, social media posting, online bullying or misuse of images must be reported to the Duty Manager and DLP where appropriate.

9.13 Bullying, behaviour and online safety

- Bullying, including physical, verbal, social and online bullying, will not be tolerated.
- Staff, coaches, schools and group leaders must intervene where bullying or harmful behaviour is observed or reported.

- Incidents must be recorded and managed in line with behaviour, complaints and safeguarding reporting procedures.
- Where bullying may indicate harm, abuse, neglect, coercion, exploitation or serious risk, the DLP must be informed and a child protection or welfare concern considered.

9.14 First aid, intimate care and physical assistance

- First aid should be provided by trained personnel in an open, visible and appropriate area where practicable.
- The child's dignity and privacy must be respected. A second adult should be present or nearby where practicable, especially where treatment requires physical contact or privacy-sensitive assistance.
- Parents, guardians, school staff or group leaders should be informed of first aid treatment in line with incident procedures.
- Any physical assistance must be necessary, proportionate, explained where possible and recorded where appropriate.

9.15 Emergency evacuation involving children

Emergency evacuations will be managed in line with the Emergency Action Plan. Staff will prioritise safe evacuation, supervision, accountability and communication with parents, guardians, school staff or group leaders. Children should not be left unsupervised during evacuation or re-entry. Incidents, issues and learning points must be recorded and reviewed.

10. Implementation, communication and review

- This Child Safeguarding Statement and associated risk assessment will be made available to staff and will form part of induction and ongoing safeguarding training.
- A copy of this Child Safeguarding Statement will be displayed in a prominent place in the facility and made available to parents, guardians, Tusla and members of the public on request.
- Management will monitor implementation through training records, incident reviews, staff briefings, procedure reviews and risk assessment updates.
- This Child Safeguarding Statement and the risk assessment will be reviewed no later than May 2027, and as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Statement refers.
- Where review identifies gaps, procedures will be updated and staff will be briefed on the changes.

11. Sign-off and contact details

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been approved by Laois Leisure management and applies to Laois Leisure services and activities involving children and young people.

Relevant Person	Sean Quirke, General Manager
Email	sean@laoisleisure.ie
Designated Liaison Person	Michael Quirke
Deputy Designated Liaison Person	Pam Quirke
Date approved	_____
Signed	_____

For queries about this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the Relevant Person listed above.