

Child Safeguarding Statement

Glenbeg NS is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. We also have two ASD special classes (**Spraol**) attached to the 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)*, the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and *Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements*, the Board of Management of **Glenbeg NS** has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1. The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: **Catherine Fitzgerald (Principal)**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: **Nicola Costin (Deputy Principal)**
4. The Relevant Person is: **Catherine Fitzgerald (Principal)**
5. The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, 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 or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.


6. The following procedures/measures are in place:


- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.

- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres 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 DES and available on the gov.ie website.
 - In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) 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 BOM members to avail of relevant training
 - The BOM maintains records of all staff and Board member training
 - In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
 - All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
 - *In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019)*, the BOM has 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 attached as an appendix to these procedures.
 - The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.
7. This statement has been published on the school's website www.glenbegnationalschool.ie and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
8. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on the **6th March 2018**.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **8th February 2024**.

Signed:  Chairperson Date: 8/2/24

Signed:  Principal Date: 8/2/24

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Glenbeg NS

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of **Glenbeg NS**.

1. List of school activities:

- Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters
- Recruitment of school personnel including:
 - Teachers
 - SNAs
 - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
 - Sports coaches
 - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
 - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
 - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
 - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Students participating in work experience
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one engagement with external professional eg NEPS, SLT, OT, HSE Nurse
- Outdoor teaching activities
- Use of external personnel to supplement sport and other extra-curricular activities
- Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum eg RSE, SPHE, Stay Safe
- Teacher and pupils teaching and learning in classroom
- Teacher and pupils teaching and learning remotely
- Care of Children with special needs, including personal hygiene and toileting needs
- Risk of pupils running away from supervising adult / classroom / school grounds
- Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint
- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as:
 - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants
 - Members of the Traveller community
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
 - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
 - Pupils of minority religious faiths
 - Children in Spraoi
 - Children in care
- Children on CPNS (Child Protection Notification System)
- Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Use of Sensory Room in Spraoi
- Use of toilet areas in school:
 - Staff/Wheelchair accessible toilet in main building
 - Toilets in classroom
 - Staff toilet in Spraoi
 - Children/Wheelchair accessible toilet in Spraoi
- Use of changing areas in school
- Sporting Activities
- Annual Sports Day
- Active School Flag Week
- Fundraising activities within school involving children
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) by pupils in school

- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Student Council / Green Schools Meetings involving students, staff and other adults
- Students sent to alternative classrooms when a teacher is absent.
- School transport arrangements:
 - To matches, church, tours, swimming, gymnastics, school events etc
 - use of bus escorts
- Prevention and dealing with bullying behaviour amongst children
- School Fundraising Activities outside of school involving children
- School outings
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities eg Bushy Park
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Swimming lessons
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction outside of school

2. The school has identified the following risks of harm in respect of its activities

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching / coaching situation
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child including cyberbullying
- 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, swimming lessons, school matches
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving personal hygiene/toileting assistance
- Risk of harm due to teaching and learning remotely
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms

3. The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment:

- Child Safeguarding Statement & *The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all staff via email after annual review and at the start of the new school year.

- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum (2019)
- Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment are displayed in the hall and on the school website.
- DLP & DDLP to complete Oide online training for the school year 2023/2024
- The school:
 - Has provided each member of school 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 eg Tusla, Oide
 - Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
 - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting.
- Records of all relevant vetting are kept.
- The school has a code of conduct and Dignity at Work Policy for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff).
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff. See Grievance & Complaints Procedures
- Visitors/Parents etc cannot enter school without pre-arranging meeting or ringing the office while outside.
- Visitor Sign in/out Log Book.
- The school has a(n):
 - Acceptable Usage Policy. The AUP has been reviewed to mitigate the potential risks linked to the use of devices in school and remote teaching and learning and has communicated this policy to parents.
 - Administration of Medicine and Managing Chronic Health Conditions Policy
 - Anti-Bullying_Cyber Bullying Policy which are fully compliant with the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.
 - Attendance Policy – sign in/out
 - Code of Behaviour
 - One-to-One Teaching Policy
 - ❖ Open doors where necessary
 - ❖ Glass in door
 - Personal hygiene and Toileting Policy
 - Safety Statement
 - School Tour Policy
 - ❖ Individual Risk Assessment of external location re: toilets/ changing facilities /suitability prior to visit
 - ❖ Children are paired/partnered
 - ❖ Separate classrooms for boys & girls when changing
 - ❖ Children all wait for each other
 - ❖ Teacher / SNA assists with seat belts – NOT bus driver
 - Special Education Policy
 - Supervision Policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, arrival, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets etc
 - ❖ Arrival:
 - Supervised by Principal and an SNA from 8.45 – 9.00am 15mins towards Croke Park.
 - Children line up in their relevant class lines prior to 9am
 - Children go straight to their classrooms on wet days and are supervised by class Teachers from 8.45am
 - ❖ Dismissal supervised by Principal and a member of the ISM
 - ❖ Designated class yards

- ❖ Children to play with those within similar age/ability range
- ❖ Three teachers and all SNAs on duty for both lunch breaks
- ❖ Recording of incidents in Incident Book/Class Behaviour Book
- ❖ Toilets at lunchtime:
 - Children are encouraged to go to the toilet before yard
 - Children use toilets in the 4th & 5th class room and younger children go with a partner
 - Class teacher remains with class at all times when external coaches are used.
 - ❖ SNA goes with larger groups or with SEN child where required
 - ❖ Sensory room – glass in the door. One adult with a minimum of 2 children at any one time
- Twitter policy – parental permission
- Work experience Policy
- Critical Incidents Policy.
- TY students have access to their phone only at lunchtime not in the classrooms or while out on the yard
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum and the Stay Safe Programme. See SPHE Plan for both.
- Stay Safe Programme on cyber-bullying - workshops every 2nd year in Term 2 by external facilitator

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this 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 Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*

In undertaking this 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.


It is acknowledged that schools already have in place a range of policies, practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of harm to children while they are participating in the activities of the school and that some school activities will carry low or minimal risks of harm compared to others. In the context of the risk assessment that must be undertaken by schools, the *Children First Act, 2015* refers to risk as “any potential for harm”. Therefore, it is important that, as part of its risk assessment process, each school lists and reviews all of its various activities (which shall include identifying those that may carry low risk of harm as well as those that carry higher risks of harm). Doing so will help the school to (1) identify, as required under the *Children First Act, 2015*, any risks of harm that may exist in respect of the school’s activities, (2) identify and assess the adequacy of the various procedures already in place to manage those risks of harm and (3) identify and put in place any such additional procedures as are considered necessary to manage any risk identified.

The *Addendum to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 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.

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.

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this 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 chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*.

This risk assessment was completed by the BOM on the **8th Feb 2024**. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed:  Chairperson Date: 8/2/24

Signed:  Principal Date: 8/2/24