

Child Safeguarding Statement

Glenstal Abbey School is a Catholic post-primary boarding school providing post-primary education to pupils from First Year to Leaving Certificate Year.

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 \(revised 2023\)](#), the [Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023](#) and [Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements](#), the board of management of Glenstal Abbey Boarding School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The board of management of Glenstal Abbey School has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Marius Carney, Headmaster & Principal.
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Gráinne Foley, Deputy Principal.
- 4 The Relevant Person is Marius Carney.
(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. This person must be the DLP)
- 5 The Board of Management of Glenstal Abbey School recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school and boarding 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 board of management will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The board of management 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 and care of their children; and

- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school/boarding facility 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/boarding facility, the board of management adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the relevant procedures set out in the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school/boarding facility staff which are published on the gov.ie.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the board of management 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 Department of Education and available on gov.ie.
- 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 board of management -
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
 - The board of management maintains records of all staff and board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school/boarding facility personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* including, in the case of registered teachers and any boarding facility staff who are mandated persons, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- There is a procedure in place for maintaining a list of mandated persons. All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015. In addition, housemasters and boarding interns, health centre nursing staff, sports coaches, music tutors are also mandated persons. All monks at Glenstal Abbey

are mandated person. A full list of mandated persons at Glenstal Abbey School is retained by the school and updated in line with personnel changes.


- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school/boarding 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.
 - The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, gov.ie or will be made available on request by the school.
- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school and boarding personnel, 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 11 September 2023.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the board of management on 11 September 2023.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 11/12/2023

Signed: 
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 11th Dec. 2023.

For information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed or to request a copy of the statement, please contact the relevant person noted at the beginning of this child safeguarding statement

Phone: 061 62110, or email: principal@glenstal.com

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Glenstal Abbey School

In accordance with Section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools revised 2023* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Glenstal Abbey School.

1 List of School Activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of students
- Daily roll call of full and day boarders
- Supervision of residential boarders in dormitories
- Daily gathering for morning assembly
- Daily meals: breakfast, lunch, and supper
- Supervision during breaks and meal queues
- Recreation breaks for pupils
- Classroom teaching
- One-to-one teaching
- One-to-one mentoring
- Evening study
- Use of ICT by students at school and for distance learning
- Internal (In-School) and State Examinations
- Outdoor teaching activities; on- and off-site field trips
- All extracurricular activities offered by Glenstal Abbey school
- Sporting activities
- School outings
- School trips necessitating overnight stay
- School trips involving both domestic and foreign travel
- Transition year work experience
- Language and educational exchanges
- Hosting of international exchange students
- School liturgies
- School social activities
- Use of off-site facilities for school activities
- Annual sports day
- Use of changing rooms/toilets/showers in other facilities hosting a school activity
- School transportation both daily and contracted transport to specific school events
- Administration of first aid
- Administration of medicines
- Attendance at school health centre
- Fundraising events involving pupils
- Annual 'Darkness into Light' walk
- Curricular provision in respect of SPHE or RSE and well-being

- Implementation of anti-bullying care team policy
- Open Days
- CPD for school personnel on child protection
- Care of students with special educational needs including intimate care plan where required
- Care of students with particular / specific vulnerabilities including
 - Students from ethnic minorities
 - Members of the travelling community
 - Gay, Bisexual or Transgender students (LGBT)
 - Students in care
 - Students of minority religious faiths
 - Students on Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
- Presence of external personnel guest speakers in the delivery of curriculum
- Recruitment of school personnel including
 - Teachers, housemasters, and SNA staff
 - School administration staff
 - Maintenance, cleaning, housekeeping
 - External tutors
 - Volunteer parents
 - Catering staff
- Contractors present during school time
- Visitors / contractors present during and after school time
- Application of school behaviour code
- Application of mobile phone and technology policy
- Use of school premises by other organizations during and after the school day

1.1 List of Boarding Activities

- Management of children and young people as they live away from home
- One-to-one mentoring or counselling
- Induction of new boarders
- Children and young people going to accommodation other than their own home at weekends
- Monitoring at mealtimes
- Use of showers
- Management of mobile phones, photography and recording
- Management of prescription medication
- Evening activities and supervision at night
- Evacuation/fire drills outside of school hours
- Managing visits of parents, guardians or agents with boarders
- Escorting and/or transporting individual boarders

2 The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities –

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported
- 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 child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- 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., educational exchange
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out-of-school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship / communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing using computers, social media, phones, and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have specific vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- 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

2.1 The boarding facility has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school/boarding facility personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school/boarding facility personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school/boarding facility by a member of school/boarding facility personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school/boarding facility by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school/boarding facility by volunteer or visitor to the school/boarding facility
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school/boarding facility 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

- 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
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school/boarding facility
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school or in the boarding facility
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due to inadequate code of behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school/boarding facility personnel communicating with pupils/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 inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner

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

- All school employed personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools Revised 2023 are made available to all school personnel
- School personnel are required to adhere to the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools Revised 2023 and to the Children First Act 2015
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing programme at Junior Cycle
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools
- The school has a supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during assembly, dismissal, and breaks, and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms, etc.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a health and safety policy

- The school adheres to the requirements of the garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and garda vetting
- The school has a code of conduct for all school personnel
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has a special educational needs policy
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medications to pupils
- 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
 - encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training
 - maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of first aid
- The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
- The school has in place an ICT Policy (Acceptable Use Policy [AUP]) in respect of usage of ICT by pupils the school has in place a mobile phone policy in respect of usage of mobile phones by pupils. The AUP is designed to inform and guide remote or distance learning activity by pupils.
- The school has in place the critical incident management team
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations

3.1 The boarding facility has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment

- All school/boarding facility personnel are provided with a copy of the school/boarding facility's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with Recognised Schools 2023* are made available to all school/boarding facility personnel

- School/boarding facility personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures for Boarding Facilities associated with*

Recognised Schools 2023 and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019)

- The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
- The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
- The school/boarding facility undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- The school/boarding facility has a yard/playground supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of children during, assembly, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school/boarder outings
- The school/boarding facility has a Health and Safety policy
- The school/boarding facility adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school/boarding facility has a code of conduct for school/boarding facility personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school/boarding facility complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for staff
- The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
- The school/boarding facility has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils/students
- The school/boarding facility –
 - Has provided each member of school/boarding facility staff with a copy of the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school/boarding facility's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages board of management/management authority members to avail of relevant training
 - Maintains records of all staff and board member training
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The school/boarding facility has in place a code of behaviour for pupils/students
- The school/boarding facility has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
- The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school/boarding facility by pupils/students as per circular 38/2018
- The school/boarding facility has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a Home School Liaison policy and related procedures

- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches

- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
- The school/boarding facility has in place a policy and procedures for one-to-one counselling
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher placements
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations

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 2017*

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.