

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Glencastle National School September 2023- September 2024

Child Safeguarding Statement

Glencastle National School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

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 Glencastle National School 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 Mc Intyre
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Lisa Carolan
- 4 The Relevant Person is Catherine Mc Intyre
(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. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the designated liaison person.)
- 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 Department of Education 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 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 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 Board 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 included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- 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.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

- 7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) 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 _____ [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on ___[most recent review date].

Signed: Tom Mc Andrew

Signed: Catherine Mc Intyre

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal

Date: 10th October 2023

Date:10th October 2023

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Glencastle National 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)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Glencastle National School

1. List of school activities

1. Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils- 7
2. Recreation breaks for pupils- 7,18
3. Classroom teaching – 3, 4, 5
4. One-to-one teaching -11,12,16,24, 27
5. Recreational breaks for pupils- 8,7,18
6. Movement breaks for pupils 11,,24, 27
7. Outdoor teaching activities 8,7,18
8. Online teaching and learning remotely 19, 20, 27
9. Use of ICT by staff and pupils- 19, 20, 27.
10. Sporting Activities 7,23
11. School outings 7,8,15
12. School trips 7,8,15
13. Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools- Intimate Care- 4,5,7,9,10,14,18
14. Annual Sports Day7, 8,18
15. Fundraising events involving pupils 7, 8, 15
16. Use of off-site facilities for school activities 8,15,18
17. School Transport arrangements including supervision on school outings 8,15, 31
18. Care of any vulnerable students, including intimate care where needed 14,15,32,33
19. Care of vulnerable students with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed 10,14,15,32,33
20. Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils 18,33
21. Administration of Medicine 15,19
22. Administration of First Aid 17,9
23. Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe 4,5
24. Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils 5,6,18
25. Training of school personnel in child protection matters 16
26. Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum 10, 22
27. Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities 10, 23
28. Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as 4,5,6,13
 - 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 care
- Children on CPNS
- Children with medical needs

29. Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school

30. Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media 19,20

31. Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc. 18,20

32. Pupils participating in work experience in the school 26

33. Student teachers undertaking training placement in school 25

34. Use of video/photography/other media to record school events 11,19

35. After school use of school premises by other organisations 29

36. Use of school premises by other organisation during school day 29

37. Multi- D support to include Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapists, Social Worker- - 10, 22

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 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. 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
- 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 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, 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
- Risk of harm due to exclusion

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

1. All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
2. The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)* are made available to all school personnel
3. 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 the *Children First Act 2015* and its Addendum (2019) and in the continued implementation of the best practice (non-statutory) guidance set out in *Children's First National Guidance 2017*.
4. The school implements in full the Stay Safe Programme
5. The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum
6. 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*
7. The school 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.
8. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
9. The school has a Health and safety policy with the addition of the Health and Safety Control of Covid 19 policy for students
10. The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DE circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
11. The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
12. The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
13. The school has a Special Educational Needs policy
14. The school has an intimate care policy/plan in respect of students who require such care
15. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication to pupils
16. The school has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement The School ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training . The school encourages board of management members to avail of relevant training. The School maintains records of all staff and board member training

17. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
18. The school has in place a code of behaviour for pupils
19. The school has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT by pupils updated in 2020 with an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
20. The school has in place a policy governing the use of smart phones and tablet devices in the school by pupils as per circular 38/2018
21. The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
22. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external persons to supplement delivery of the curriculum
23. The school has in place a policy and procedures for the use of external sports coaches
24. The school has in place a policy and clear procedures for one-to-one teaching activities
25. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of student teacher and/or other college student work placements
26. The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of students undertaking work experience in the school from local secondary schools.
27. The school has a code of conduct for staff.
28. The school has a 2-3 club policy
29. The school has a Use of School by Other Organisations policy
30. The school has in place a Fundraising policy
31. The school has in place a School Transport Policy
32. The School has in place a Physical Intervention and Positive Touch Protocol
33. The School has a Manual Handling Policy.
34. The School has in place an Inclusion Policy

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 shall be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review of Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

