Glengurt NS

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

Glengurt National School is a primary/special/post-primary school providing primary/post-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 [insert school name] 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 John Browne

3 The Acting Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Bríd O'Rourke

4 The Relevant Person is John Browne
(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 can also be the DLP)

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 **12th September 2023**

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on **23rd September 2025**

Signed: Mary Harnett
Chairperson of Board of Management
Date: 23.09.2025

Signed: John Breen
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
Date: 23.09.2025

Glengurt NS

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Written Assessment of Risk of Glengurt 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 Glengurt National School.

1.List of school activities	**2.The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities**	**3.The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment -**
Child Protection training of School Personnel	Indicators of harm/abuse not being recognised by school personnel. Harm/abuse not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel	The school has provided all school personnel with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. The school ensures the DES child protection procedures are made available to school personnel. The school encourages staff to avail of relevant training. The school encourages BOM members to avail of relevant training

	Risk of child being harmed by a volunteer/ parent/ person while child is participating in school activities	The school maintains records of all staff and BOM member training The DLP and Deputy DLP are required to avail of training provided by a professional organisation (e.g. PDST) on a regular basis – The certificate of attendance will be retained on file. All school personnel are required to do the online Tusla training and provide a copy of the certificate of completion to the DLP. All school personnel, mandated and non-mandated, are required to adhere to the DES *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017*
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Risk of harm if child enters classroom unsupervised Risk of harm if child is late to school Risk of harm if bullying is happening on yard while children are waiting to be collected by class teacher Risk of harm if children are collected by someone other than their parents	Supervision is provided by school personnel on yard from 9.10am to 9.20am. Children are walked into the classroom by class teacher/SNA in the mornings and at break times. Children are not left leave the school grounds without seeing the parent/person collecting the child. School must be notified if someone different is collecting a child or if they are to cycle or walk home by themselves. Outside of normal dismissal times pupils will only be released to parents or those nominated by the parents to collect the child. Parents report the school secretaries office on arrival and their child/children will be accompanied by a staff member/the secretary to the reception area. The children are signed out

		by the adult collecting them. When children arrive to school late this is also recorded on Aladdin. New arrival and dismissal policy drafted and ratified by the BoM and communicated with parents.
Recreation breaks for pupils	Risk of bullying by other children Risk of harm caused by lack of supervision SEN Vulnerabilities Risk of harm due to intimate care Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour	The school has a new Bí Cineálta Policy which was recently developed and is reviewed annually. Children are taught appropriate behaviour through SPHE and Stay Safe. Supervision at all times by class teachers, support teachers and SNAs. School has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid. School has an implements an Intimate Care & Toileting Policy School has a Health and Safety Policy. School complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures. School perimeter hedging has been cut and the grass area to the rear of the school has been cleaned to ensure clear visibility at all times.

		Hedging adjacent to the basketball court where the new astro turf will be located will be cut to ensure clear visibility at all times.
Classroom teaching	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 relationships between child and adult Children with SEN who have vulnerabilities Risk for children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities	All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. School has Intimate Care Policy in place for students who require such care. School complies with agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching. Teachers are aware of the Teaching Council's Code of Conduct. In so far as possible 2 adults are present if/when a child with SEN requires assistance with toileting.
One to one teaching	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while participating in out of school activities Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending out of school activities.	All Staff are Garda-vetted. One to One teaching: may be provided for any pupil where it is deemed to be in the best interest of the child by the principal and teaching staff. All one-to-one teaching sessions should be clearly timetabled and should only be carried out where there are appropriate agreements in place with regard to the physical environment (doors left open, etc.). All staff have a copy of our school's Child Safeguarding Statement.

		Glass on classroom doors should never be covered.
School Outings	Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while participating in out of school activities	Children are to be within sight of school staff at all times when on outings from school.
Sporting Activities	Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision while attending out of school activities.	The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars. Class teachers never leave their classes with external coaches/visitors to the school.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities	Risk of harm by external personnel and parents who are volunteering.	Children will travel to off-site facilities with teachers and SNAs only. External facilities will have their own Safeguarding Statements. Children will be always supervised by a teacher.
Fundraising events involving pupils	Risk of harm by external personnel and parents	Children are supervised by a teacher at all times. Volunteers/ external personnel will receive a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
Annual Sport's Day	Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel, another student or themselves.	Children are supervised by a teacher at all times. All external coaches/visitors will have up to date Garda vetting. All external coaches/visitors will be given a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in school	Risk of being harmed by school personnel. Risk of being in a one-to-one environment	School has an Intimate Care Policy.

	Risk of harm to children with SEN who have vulnerabilities.	Substitute teachers will have access to a Policy Folder which will be stored in the office. In case of toileting accidents in class, the child is given clothes (from the spare clothes box in the school). Children should change themselves. Parents will be informed when the child is being collected. Where this is not possible, and the child cannot change themselves, a second staff member will be always present. They will do so in as 'open' an environment as possible with due regard to the privacy of the child. Children will be always supervised by teachers. All toilets are now located within the classrooms following the building reconfiguration works in July/August 2025. Therefore children no longer have to leave the classroom to access the toilet.
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school	Risk of harm by religious personnel & members of the public at mass / during retreats.	Children will be always supervised by teachers.
Administration of First Aid	Risk of harm due to proximity to adults administering first aid.	School has an Accident and Injury Policy in place. If there is an injury to the head, parents are called and made aware of such an injury.

SPHE, Stay Safe, RSE provisions	Risk of being exposed to inappropriate content by staff (e.g. pop ups on YouTube)	Parents have the option to opt out of the RSE programme. Teachers will preview content prior to showing class. The school implements in full the SPHE curriculum over a two-year cycle as outlined in the school plan. Substitute teachers will have access to a Policy Folder which will be stored in the office. The Stay Safe programme will be taught in every class as outlined in the school's SPHE plan. Individual teachers planning documents indicate when specific objectives of the SPHE curriculum are taught.
Prevention and dealing with bullying	Risk of being bullied Risk of being wrongly accused or of the matter being mishandled	Stay Safe Programme is taught in the school. The school has an Bí Cineálta Policy. Bullying is formally recorded. Templates are kept in the office. The yard is very well supervised and classrooms are well supervised on wet days. The area beside the shelter to the rear of the school has been refenced to remove the corner from it.

Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities (e.g. cycling, swimming)	Risk of harm from staff, external coach or member of the public	Children are supervised by a teacher at all times. All external coaches/visitors will have up to date Garda vetting. All external coaches/visitors will be given a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. During swimming sessions, each child will have access to their own changing cubicle.
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities	Risk of bullying/ verbal abuse. Possible communication barrier	The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy. All teachers will have access to a Policy Folder which will be stored in the office or can access the policy on the shared drive.
Recruitment of school personnel	Risk of harm from school personnel	All school personnel are required to be Garda vetted and the relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting are adhered to. Best practice procedures with regard to interviewing and checking references are followed. All volunteers/ parents involved regularly involved in school activities are Garda vetted
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of	Risk of harm from school personnel	All volunteers/ parents involved regularly involved in school activities are given a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.

Behaviour including detention, confiscation of phones etc.		Glass on classroom doors always remains uncovered. Devices: If a child is found to have a mobile device in school, they turn phone off and give it to the teacher. It is given back at the end of the day.
Use of video, photography and other media to record school events	Risk of inappropriate photographs or videos being shared. Risk of photographs being taken by staff members using personal mobile phones.	Children are not permitted mobile phones or devices in school. If a child is found to have a mobile device in school, they turn phone off and give it to the teacher. It is given back at the end of the day. Staff are not permitted to use their own personal devices to take photographs or videos of the children. The school iPads may be used to record children's work and activities.
Use of ICT in school	Risk of children accessing inappropriate content using search engines on school computers and iPads. Risk of children using their own devices to take and share inappropriate photographs and videos. Risk of parents sharing photos of children from school events.	Children are encouraged to use child friendly search engines e.g., Kiddle and Kidflex Parents are asked to refrain from taking photographs at all school events and are made aware that photographs cannot be shared under any circumstances. Parents are asked to sign permission to allow children's photographs to go on school website and on school newsletter.
Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day	Risk of harm to children by a member of an outside organisation when walking to and from	The class teacher stays with their class at all times and accompanies them to and from the activities.

	activities, and during activities with outside organisation.	Class teacher should stop the activity if they have any concerns. DLP should be informed. All external coaches/visitors will have up to date Garda vetting. All external coaches/visitors will be given a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
Afterschool use of premises by other organisations	Risk of outside organisations accessing confidential files and documents in the office or in rooms used by the organisation	All confidential files will be kept in a locked file which can only be accessed by the DLP and the Deputy DLP. Organisations using our premises should have their own Child Safeguarding Statement. They will be given a copy of our school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
Students participating in work experience in the school.	Risk of harm from the person on work experience.	All personnel entering the school should be Garda vetted. As people under 16 cannot be Garda vetted, we will not permit anyone under 16 to do work experience in the school. The school has a Work Experience Policy. All personnel entering the school will be given a copy of our school's Child Safeguarding Statement.

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.

This risk assessment has been completed and updated by the Board of Management on 23rd September 2025. It shall be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed Mary Harnett Date 23.09.'25

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed John Beaune Date 23/09/25

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management