Glengurt National School
Glengurt, Tournafulla, Co. Limerick

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Board of Management Annual Report 2024-2025

Fáilte romhaibh go léir. Caithfidh mé a rá go raibh bliain an-ghnóthach ag an mBord Bainistíochta. Seo a leanas cúntas ar imeachtaí an Bhoird i rith na bliana 2024-2025.

The purpose of this Annual Report of the Board of Management of Glengurt National School is to provide a summary of information on the operation of the school in line with the requirements of the 1998 Education Act.

This Report serves as an addition to the information provided on the school's website www.glengurtns.scoilnet.ie, the various newsletters issued by the school, circulars to parents, Aladdin messages, Information Booklet for parents of new Junior Infants and information provided to parents at the parent teacher meetings.

A message from the Principal

I want to sincerely thank everyone for their support since I took on the role as Principal in September 2023. While we've made some progress over this timeframe, we have plans in place to improve the internal and external facilities in the school further over the next 12 months. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new school year on August 27th 2025.

We began this school year by welcoming some new staff members to the team, Múinteoir Beccie (Class Teacher) and Frances Horgan Curtin (SNA).

Students enjoyed celebrating many events such as Engineers Week, Science Week, Maths Week, Well-being Week, World Down Syndrome Day, World Book Day, Seachtain Na Gaeilge and Active Schools Week. The Christmas Concert was a great success once again this year. Students from Third to Sixth Class took part in Peace Proms in UL, which was a wonderful experience.

We engaged in numerous initiatives this year. We were successfully awarded our first Green Schools Flag, our second SFI Curious Minds Gold Award, Junior Entrepreneur Award and first ESB Science Blast award. A huge thank you to Múinteoir Aoife, Múinteoir Bríd, Múinteoir Therese and Múinteoir Ellie for leading these initiatives.

We were delighted to welcome our GAA, Soccer and Rugby coaches. Students participated in a variety of competitions, Cumann na mBunscol, FAI 5's, Indoor Hurling and West Limerick Camogie. Our camogie team lost out on a final appearance on scoring difference and our hurling team lost out narrowly in extra time in the West Final.

We welcomed Authors, Wildlife experts, Gymnastics Workshops, Music Workshops, Drumming Workshops, Dance Workshops and Art teachers into every classroom.

We have undertaken and completed amazing projects this year both academic and building wise. It is with great hope that we now look forward to the summer and the next school year.

I want to congratulate our 10 outgoing sixth class pupils. I also want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the staff of Glengurt N.S. for their positive outlook, drive, dedication to our 116 pupils and willingness to always lend a hand. They have undertaken a huge amount of additional duties from painting to gardening again this year. A sincere thanks to Una, John and Siobhan for their continuous support. I would also like to thank the Parents Association and Board of Management for their support throughout the school year.

Board of Management

Patron Nominee / Chairperson – Mary Harnett
Parent Nominee / Treasurer - Maria Sheehy
Teachers' Nominee – Therese Kenrick
Parent Nominee – David Kenneally
Secretary / Principal – John Browne
Patron Nominee – Br. Willie Roche
Community Nominee – Miranda Ward
Community Nominee - Deirdre O'Mahony

Board Finances

The financial management of our school is conducted in strict compliance with the Department of Education and Skills Requirements. At each Board of Management meeting the Treasurer furnished the board with a detailed report on finances. Accounts are audited each year.

Child Safeguarding

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was updated last October and can be viewed on our website www.glengurtns.scoilnet.ie and is on display inside the front door of our school. Our Designated Liaison Person(DLP) is the school principal John Browne and the Deputy DLP is the deputy-principal Bríd O'Rourke. They are legally obliged to refer all Child Protection concerns to TUSLA. At each Board meeting, the Principal presents the Board with the Principal's Oversight Report.

Health & Safety

The staff carried out a health and safety risk assessment of the school, schoolyard and grounds. All maintenance issues are addressed in a timely manner.
Our Health and Safety Policy was reviewed and ratified in June 2024.
A fire drill was carried out in each term.

Parent Association

Chairperson: Ciara Kenneally
Treasurer: Eileen Brosnahan
Secretary: Catriona Sheahan
Committee Members: Doreen Folan, Bernie Weir, Jessie Collins, Kathleen O'Connor, Elaine O'Keeffe, Caroline Meehan, NoraAnn Ruddock, Deirdre Collins, Mairead Forde. Shelly O'Connor and Jennifer Curtin.

Our Parent Association have been very busy once again this year supporting our school. Their fundraising efforts saw the fit out of a beautiful sensory room which has been a fantastic addition to our school. The committee have been meeting regularly and organised a number of fundraisers throughout the year.

The PA organised Toy Show Treat Bags, Christmas Cards and the Easter Danceathon/Skipathon. At Christmas children received sweets and prizes were given for the Toy show treat bag colouring competition.

At Easter every child got an Easter Egg and we welcomed the Easter Bunny.

In June both the staff and pupils enjoyed a surprise visit from an ice-cream van.

The PA wish to thank the staff and parents of the school for supporting their activities and look forward to next year.

School Tours

The students went on the following schools tours this year:
Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st and 2nd Class: UL
Third, Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Class: UL Activity Centre Killaloe

Croke Park Hours

Each school is obliged to spend 36 hours in after school planning and preparation in the school year. The staff have completed and exceeded the required hours for 2024-2025 in order to update policies and embed new initiatives.

School-Based Summer Programme

We are delighted to be offering a school-based summer inclusion programme again this year. The programme will run for two weeks. There will be three classes in week 1 and 4 classes in week 2. Aoife Longe, Ellie Lane, Lily Doody and Robert Browne will be working as teachers on the programme. They will be joined by five SNA's and by the school principal John Browne who will act as the programme manager for the two weeks.

Curricular Development

Mandatory Curriculum Programmes: All classes completed the Stay Safe and Relationships and Sexuality Education S.P.H.E programmes this year.
Introduction of the new Primary Maths Curriculum Framework: Teachers attended the whole school training day for the new mathematics curriculum.

New Primary Maths Curriculum

All staff engaged with training provided specifically focused on implementing the new Primary Maths Curriculum. We hope to work further with the PDST next year on this.

Bí Cineálta

We had a half day closure to facilitate the development of our Bí Cineálta Policy which will come into effect on August 27th 2025.

School Self Evaluation (SSE) / School Improvement Plan

We continued to focus on promoting wellbeing at a whole school level.

Whole school curricular planning

The In-School Management (ISM) team of John Browne, Bríd O'Rourke, Aoife Longe and Therese Kenrick have been working together to look at whole school curricular planning and assisting in continuing to improve teaching and learning practices in our school.

Class Allocations

The allocations for 2025/'26 school year will be released in the coming weeks as our staff recruitment is currently ongoing.

Thank You!

The Board of Management would sincerely like to thank Múinteoir Thérése, Múinteoir Ellie, Múinteoir Beccie, Frances Curtin, Máiread Logue and Eoghan Collins for all their service to the students over the past academic year. We wish them well on their future endeavours.

School Enrolments

10 students in Sixth Class moved on to secondary school in June. We wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Projected student enrolment for Junior Infants in September 2025 is 11 pupils.

TUSLA Reporting on Pupil Attendance

The school completed all mandatory reports for Tusla regarding pupil attendance.

Policy Development

The following policies were developed/reviewed & ratified:

- Annual Review of Child Protection Policy
- Annual Review of Anti-bullying Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Student Teachers and Trainee Special Needs Assistants Policy
- Credit Card Policy
- Splitting Class Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Bí Cineálta Policy

Student Council

The Student Council (SC) have been working hard again this year.. Our 8 Committee members were elected from every class.
The Student Council were very active and highlighted many improvements which were brought to the BOM and acted upon such as: purchasing of PE equipment, STEM equipment, inclusion of additional PE equipment during breaks. The SC celebrated inclusion by asking all children to wear odd socks on World Down Syndrome Day. The SC organised a recipe book and a book sale in order to raise funds for a cinema day in school. We are all very proud and grateful for the hard work the SC have put into the school this year.

New School Jerseys

A sincere thank you to JonJoe Sheehy Painting and Decorating and Wards Skip Hire for sponsoring a brand new set of school jerseys. This is the first ever set of school jerseys that the school has had. The students love them and wore them with pride during all school outings this year.

Schoolbooks Grant for Primary and Special Schools

Parents of children in primary school and special schools do not have to purchase school books, workbooks or copybooks again this year. Most stationary items will be provided this year with the aid of the grant. Glengurt N.S. will purchase and provide the free books on loan using the School Book Grant that has been paid to schools by the Department of Education and Skills.

School Achievements

Green Flag

We're delighted to have been awarded our first Green Flag in recognition of all the wonderful work undertaken by Múinteoir Aoife, Muinteoir Bríd and the Green Schools Committee in helping

to reduce working our Litter and Waste. which saw a great reduction in our school refuge charges as a result. The whole school took part in the Picker Pals programme and had great fun using the 'Picker Pack' to clean up the school grounds and the village of Tournafulla.

JEP Flag
The 5th & 6th Class students participated in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme again this year. The winning idea was the business idea – Sheahan's Hats which sold custom designed school and Tournafulla GAA hats.

SFI Curious Minds Award
The school achieved an SFI Curious Minds Gold Award for children's engagement with STEM in the following areas:

1. Science
2. Technology
3. Engineering
4. Maths
5. STEM Showcase

The second Gold Award plaque is proudly displayed in the reception area beside last year's award.

ESB Science Blast
Third- and Fourth-Class students participated in ESB Science Blast for the first time. Their inquiry-based project focused on "Can you change the colour of grass permanently". They travelled to UL and presented their findings to a judging panel and other schools. The students thoroughly enjoyed this and were awarded a plaque in recognition of the wonderful investigative work undertaken.

School Events
Participation in Lá Glas, Friendship Week, Wellbeing Week, Anti-Bullying Week, Internet Safety Week, Maths Week, Engineer's Week, Science Week, World Book Day, Seachtain na Gaeilge, World Down Syndrome Day and Active Schools Week.

Building Works / School Improvements

School Furniture – All classroom furniture was upgraded.

SSE Renewables Grant - We were successfully awarded funding for the replacement of blackout roller blinds throughout the school.

Knockacummer Wind Farm Community Fund – We were delighted to be awarded a considerable sum of money towards the creation our of multi-use games area. Special thanks to Una for all of her drive and determination in securing this funding which will make a huge difference to the outcome of the project.

Building Reconfiguration Works – Over the summer the internal layout of the school will be reconfigured and fabric of the school will be upgraded to accommodate the opening of our new classroom. We're excited about the changes this offers for our school.

Multi Use Games Area – It is hoped that the contractors will be on site in October/November to install the new Astro turf playing area which will be a welcomed addition to our playing facilities.

Shelter – A sincere thanks to Múinteoir Aoife for painting the 'Be the 'I' in Kind" wall in our shelter. Carmel O'Driscoll's artistic flair has once again come to the fore with the beautiful new

addition of the Solar System to the side wall of the shelter. Signage will be added in the coming weeks.

Back Yard /Outdoor Classroom – Both of these areas were cleaned and power washed this year.

Staffroom – This year we painted the old units and laid new flooring.

Repainting of the infant room and staff room – Thanks to John Folan and Jonjo Sheehy for painting the Infant classroom.

Emergency Works – We replaced the water storage tank in the attic, replaced the hot water vessel, circulating pumps and associated pipework. We upgraded the fire alarm system to ensure we are fully compliant. The new biocycle will be installed in the coming weeks.

Safety Improvements – We installed a burglar alarm system and added additional external lighting. We also installed an additional school bell.

Summer Works – We applied for Summer Works Funding around Climate Action to further enhance our school building energy efficiency.

Bottle Returns/Split the Bucket
A heartfelt thank you to the entire community of Tournafulla for their continued support with these 2 school initiatives.

Communication with Parents

An information afternoon was held for incoming Junior Infant parents on 13th June 2025.
Parent Teacher meetings took place in November, 2025.
End of School Reports were issued on June 13th, 2025.
Board of Management agreed reports were issued and uploaded to school website. Weekly Newsletters and Particular/Incidental communication through Aladdin, School Website, telephone calls and individual meetings.

Conclusion

The Board of Management wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our staff members for their unwavering hard work and dedication to the school. Your commitment is truly invaluable.

We also want to extend our sincere thanks to the parents in our school community. Your consistent support of our efforts to provide the best opportunities for the children which is very much appreciated.

As we look forward to the next school year, we hope it will be healthy, successful, and joyful for everyone in our school community. We wish all our pupils, staff, their families, and all other members of our community a wonderful and restful summer break.

Is mise le meas,
Mary Harnett
Mary Harnett, Chairperson B.O.M
Date: 4th July 2025