

Greystones Sailing Club Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

1. Policy Statement

Greystones Sailing Club (GSC) is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people participating in club activities. We aim to provide a **safe, positive, and inclusive environment** where children can learn, develop, and enjoy sailing.

This policy is implemented in line with:

- **Irish Sailing Association Safeguarding Policies**
 - **Children First Act 2015**
 - **Children First: National Guidance**
 - **Tusla – Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice**
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2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All children and young people under 18 years of age
 - Instructors, coaches, volunteers, staff, and committee members
 - Parents, guardians, and visitors involved in club activities
 - All Greystones Sailing Club organised activities, events, courses, and training sessions
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3. Principles

Greystones Sailing Club is guided by the following safeguarding principles:

- The **welfare of the child is paramount**
 - All children have the right to be safe, heard, respected, and supported
 - Children should be protected from abuse, neglect, bullying, and harm
 - Safeguarding is the responsibility of **everyone involved** in the Club
 - Appropriate action will be taken when concerns are raised
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4. Types of Abuse

In line with Children First guidance, the Club recognises the following forms of abuse:

- **Neglect**
 - **Emotional abuse**
 - **Physical abuse**
 - **Sexual abuse**
 - **Bullying and harassment** (including cyberbullying)
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5. Code of Conduct

Greystones Sailing Club has Codes of Conduct in place for:

- Children and young people
- Parents and guardians
- Instructors, coaches, and volunteers

All individuals are required to adhere to these Codes, which promote respectful behaviour, appropriate boundaries, and positive interactions.

6. Safe Recruitment and Training

The Club ensures that:

- All instructors and volunteers working with children are **appropriately vetted (Garda Vetting)**
 - Relevant safeguarding training is completed in line with Irish Sailing requirements
 - Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined
 - New instructors receive a structured **orientation** led by the Senior Instructor and supported by the Junior Development Committee
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7. Supervision and Safety

Greystones Sailing Club will:

- Maintain appropriate **instructor-to-child ratios**
 - Ensure activities are suitable for the age, ability, and experience of participants
 - Carry out risk assessments for activities and facilities
 - Ensure safety boats, equipment, and first aid provisions are in place
 - Keep accurate attendance records for all junior activities
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8. Reporting Concerns

Any safeguarding or child protection concern must be taken seriously and reported without delay.

- Concerns should be reported to the **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)**
- If a concern involves the DLP, it should be reported to the Club Commodore or another committee officer
- The DLP is responsible for reporting concerns to **Tusla** and/or **An Garda Síochána**, where appropriate

Confidentiality will be respected, and information will only be shared on a **need-to-know basis**.

9. Responding to Disclosures

If a child discloses information:

- Listen calmly and respectfully
 - Do not promise confidentiality
 - Do not question or investigate
 - Reassure the child that they did the right thing
 - Report the disclosure immediately to the DLP
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10. Record Keeping

The Club will:

- Maintain secure records of any safeguarding concerns or incidents
- Record actions taken and outcomes

- Store information in line with data protection requirements

11. Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures

Greystones Sailing Club has procedures in place for:

- Managing allegations against staff or volunteers
- Dealing with breaches of Codes of Conduct
- Handling complaints in a fair, transparent, and timely manner

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Safeguarding at GSC includes a strong commitment to **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**, ensuring that children of all backgrounds and abilities are supported and protected, including those who may be more vulnerable.

13. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Designated Liaison Person (DLP):** Responsible for child protection reporting
- **Children's Officer:** Supports children and promotes best practice
- **Senior Instructor:** Ensures safeguarding practices are followed during activities
- **Executive Committee:** Oversees implementation of safeguarding policies

14. Review

This Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy will be reviewed **annually** or sooner if required due to legislative changes, Irish Sailing updates, or club developments.

Approved by:

Greystones Sailing Club Executive Committee

Mark Hanley – Centre Principal

Date:

08/02/2026

Review Date: February 2027