



## **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**

---

### **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

---

### **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

---

### **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)

---

### **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



# Greystones Sailing Club

The Harbour, Greystones, Co. Wicklow

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

---

## 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

---

## 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

---

## 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