

# St Kevin's Industrial School

1897 – 1922

**Other Names:**

- Glendalough Industrial School
- Glendalough Orphanage and School
- St Kevin's Industrial Farm School
- St. Kevin's Senior Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys, Glendalough, near Leederville
- St Kevin's Industrial and Reformatory School for Roman Catholic Boys, Leederville

## Details

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St Kevin's Industrial School was established in 1897 in Glendalough, near Lake Monger, by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate as an industrial school for Catholic boys aged up to 16 years sent by the courts. Private admissions and boys from orphanages were also accepted. By 1922 all remaining boys had been sent to Clontarf and St Kevin's Industrial School closed.

St Kevin's Industrial school was recorded in government reports with a variety of different names, usually including either the suburb, Glendalough, or the name, St Kevin's, in the title. The way the institution was described also varied in government reports with St Kevin's being known as an industrial school, an orphanage, a farm school and a reformatory.

St Kevin's Industrial School was established on a large parcel of land in the Perth suburb of Glendalough in 1897 as an industrial school for boys aged up to 16 years. It was run by a Catholic religious order, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate who ran similar institutions in Ireland. As an industrial school, St Kevin's received government fees for children sent there by the state. They also took orphanage children and boys sent there by family. By 1922, the remaining 16 boys had been sent to Clontarf and St Kevin's closed.

A letter of appreciation of the *The Daily News* Orphans' Christmas Cheer Fund in 1915 gives an insight into life at St Kevin's. The letter shows that donations enabled the children to occasionally have extras that were not part of their daily experience:

*I have the honour to inform you that about one-third of the amount was spent on lollies, one-third on toys and the remainder on fruit and edibles. Please accept on behalf of the children and staff the expression of our sincere gratitude. Letter, 27 December 1915 published in The Daily News 2 December 1916, p.10*

Archbishop Clune reported in evidence to the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the State Children Act Amendment Bill in October 1918, that there were 36 'Government children and three private children' at St Kevin's and he thought that 'there were also some orphanage children there'.

When St Kevin's closed, the buildings were given to the Little Sisters of the Poor for use as an old people's home.

## Gallery



### Glendalough Industrial School Leederville

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a photograph from the *Western Mail* that is published on the National Library of Australia's website, *Trove*. It shows St Kevin's Industrial School in Glendalough in 1911.



### St. Kevin's Orphanage Industrial and Reformatory School for Roman Catholic Boys, Glendalough, near Leederville

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a photograph from the *Western Mail* that is published on the National Library of Australia's website, *Trove*. It shows boys in front of St Kevin's Industrial School in Glendalough in 1901.



### St Kevin's Orphanage Industrial and Reformatory School for Roman Catholic Boys, near Leederville

**Description:** 'St Kevin's Orphanage Industrial and Reformatory School for Roman Catholic Boys, near Leederville' is an image included (p.24) in the *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools, etc.*, for the year ending 31 December 1900. This image shows a group of approximately 30 boys and several men in front of a large three-storey brick building. The younger boys are sitting on the ground, with older boys and men standing behind them. Several of the older boys are holding shovels, and appear to be digging into the ground.



### St Kevin's Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys, Leederville, 1906

**Description:** 'St Kevin's Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys, Leederville, 1906' is an image included (before p.19) in the *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools* for the year ending 31 December 1906. This image shows a group of approximately 60 boys and several adult men sitting or standing in front of a three-storey brick building. The boys range in age from approximately 7 to 16 years old. Two of the boys are holding dogs. 'Evangelizare Pauperibus Misit Me' is written on the front of the building, which translates to 'He has sent me to declare the good news to the poor'.



### Workshops - St Kevin's Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys, Leederville, 1906

**Description:** 'Workshops - St Kevin's Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys, Leederville, 1906' is an image included (before p.19) in the *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools* for the year ending 31 December 1906. This image shows a boardwalk running through newly established gardens up to the front of a long single-storey building.

## More info

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Oblates of Mary Immaculate \(1894 - current\)](#)

### Related Organisations

- [Clontarf \(8 September 1901 - 1983\)](#)

Sixteen boys from St Kevin's Industrial School were transferred to Clontarf when St Kevin's closed.

Date: 1921 - 1922

### Related Legislation

- [State Children Act 1907, Western Australia \(1907 - 1948\)](#)

St Kevin's Industrial School was classed as an industrial school within the meaning of the *State Children Act 1907*.

## Resources

- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, [A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families](#), November 1999
- Batty, JS, [The Cyclopedia of Western Australia \(1912\)](#), 1912. *Relevance*: p.505-506
- Hetherington, Penelope, [Reformatories](#), Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia, 2009
- Foster, Darren J, [Submission No 347 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 3 April 2004
- *Report by the Inspector of Charitable Institutions*, 1898

## Records

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For more information and to access your records, follow the links below:

### Records held by other organisations

- [Correspondence Files, Colonial Secretary's Office, Chief Secretary's Department \(1883 - 1983\)](#)
- [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/st-kevins-industrial-school/>