

## **Oberstown Children Detention Campus releases a new 'quick reference guide' on the language of youth justice**

**Thursday, August 24:** Oberstown Children Detention Campus today published a new quick reference guide on the language of youth justice. Produced primarily as a tool to encourage accurate language when reporting on youth justice and detention, the guide also aims to reduce common misunderstandings and increase general awareness of the correct terminology.

'[Not just language](#)' highlights the words most often used and suggests alternatives:

<b>Instead of</b>	<b>Use</b>
Prison	Children detention campus
Wardens	Residential social care workers
Inmates/prisoners	Young people detained in Oberstown
Thug/yob/criminal	Young person in conflict with the law
Cell/landing	Bedroom/residential unit

The full language guide can be found [here](#).

### **Pat Bergin, Director of Oberstown said:**

*"By producing a quick guide to reference, when writing about youth justice and youth detention, we want to make it easy to use the correct language and terminology. We designed it with reporting in mind, but it is available online as a tool for everyone.*

*"Language around youth detention and youth justice can shape public opinion, perception and attitudes. Language at its best can be constructive, dispel myths and stereotypes, but it can also contribute to prejudice.*

*"Challenging stereotypical and stigmatising language is important, because discrepancies between public perceptions and statistical fact means that the public may be misinformed about youth crime."*

**ENDS**

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### **Note to Editors:**

#### **1. [Oberstown](#)**

In June 2016, a single Oberstown campus was established, bringing together three children detention schools – Trinity House, Oberstown Boys' School and Oberstown Girls' School.

[Oberstown Children Detention Campus](#) provides a safe and secure environment for children who are placed in the campus by the Children Court. The objective of Oberstown is to provide young people in the campus with education and development to address and change offending behaviour, so that they can return and contribute positively to their families and communities.

**Oberstown 2017 file shots available [here](#).**