

Ossory Youth Lourdes Pilgrimage Group Safeguarding Children Statement

The Ossory Youth Lourdes Pilgrimage Group (OLYPG) values and encourages the participation of children and young people in the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes and in activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, social and intellectual development, and will work in a partnership way with parents at all times.

The Gospel of Christ invites us to cherish and affirm each child as a gift from God with an inherent right to dignity of life and bodily integrity which shall be respected, nurtured and protected by all. Everyone in the Church has an obligation to ensure that the fundamental rights of children are respected.

In keeping with this we The Ossory Youth Lourdes Pilgrimage Group (OLYPG) undertake to do all in our power to create safe environments where the welfare of children and young people is paramount. This duty of care extends to all the many and varied ways that children share in the life of the Church in our group and diocese and on this Pilgrimage.

Partnership with Civil Authorities

The Ossory Youth Lourdes Pilgrimage Group (OLYPG) is committed to working in partnership with the civil authorities to ensure that all aspects of

child welfare are managed promptly, professionally and justly. We will adhere to statutory policy, notably 'Children First': National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children (1999). All child protection concerns shall be reported to the civil authorities without delay.

Procedures

The Ossory Youth Lourdes Pilgrimage Group (OLYPG) is committed to following best practice as specified by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church (NBSCCC). Our diocesan child protection policy and procedures are set out in our publication - 'Diocese of Ossory: Safeguarding Children Policy & Procedures' (AUG 2012).

Signed: Derek Dooley

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Pilgrimage Safeguarding Reps

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