



SAFEGUARDING

Child Safeguarding Policy Statement of the Constituent Members of the Catholic Church in Ireland

As a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland, we recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children, are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this. We recognise each child as a gift from God, and we value and encourage the participation of children in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development. All Church personnel (including clergy, religious, staff and volunteers) have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN CONTACT

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Tel: 087 100 0232 or Deputy DLP 087 331 4330

Tusla - Child & Family Agency

Carlow, **Kilkenny**, South Tipperary – 052 617 7302
Laois, Offaly - 044 935 3997

Garda National Protective Services

01 666 3430 / 35

Towards Healing Helpline Confidential Helpline

1800 313 316 www.towardshealing.ie

Towards Peace Spiritual Support Service:

01 505 3028 towardspeace@iecon.ie

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.ossory.ie

www.safeguarding.ie

SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy applies to all Church bodies and is addressed to all Church personnel who are required to comply with it. Full understanding of and adherence to this policy should lead to a deepening in the understanding of, and respect for, the rights of children and young people to participate as people of faith in the life of the Church.

The care and protection of children involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church, and is a requirement that applies regardless of the nature of the Church activities in which children are involved. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in creating an environment in which children can develop and be safe.

PUTTING THE POLICY INTO ACTION

This Church body will implement this policy by ensuring that all our ministry and activities comply with applicable indicators of the seven safeguarding standards.

1. Creating and Maintaining Safe Environments.
2. Procedures for Responding to Child Protection Suspicions, Concerns, Knowledge or Allegations.
3. Care and Support for the Complainant.
4. Care and Management of the Respondent.
5. Training and Support for Keeping Children Safe.
6. Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message.
7. Quality Assuring Compliance with the Standards.

COMMITMENT BY THE CHURCH AUTHORITY

On behalf of this Church body, as part of the Catholic Church in Ireland, I commit to safeguarding children by agreeing to follow this Child Safeguarding Policy.

I will abide by and uphold the seven standards and the applicable indicators in our entire ministry and contacts with children.


+ Dermot Farrell

On Behalf of the **Diocese of Ossory**
31 May 2019