

COMMUNICATING THE CHURCH'S SAFEGUARDING MESSAGE

Policies and procedures are only effective if everyone, including children, understands their purpose and know how to use them. Our diocese is committed to making its child protection procedures widely known and understood.

The name and contact details of our child protection personnel and counselling services will be circulated by every means possible.

Our communications efforts will include making the latest edition of our *'Kildare & Leighlin Diocese: Safeguarding Children Policy & Procedures'* available on the diocesan website – www.kandle.ie

Parish Communications

Every parish should display a copy of their **Parish Safeguarding Children Statement** along with the **Diocesan Safeguarding Children Poster** (see Resources) in all church porches, parish halls, and any other parish location where parish events with and/or for children or young people are run.

All who work with children and/or young people in or on behalf of the parish should be made aware of contact numbers for the HSE, An Garda Síochána, and the Parish Designated Person(s).

Giving children the confidence to speak out

- Give details of how to contact the Parish Designated Person should they have any concerns.
- Display posters or have information leaflets especially for new children who join about child safeguarding and children's helplines.
- Have a copy of your code of behaviour and complaints procedure on display and available as brochures available to all staff, volunteers, children and young people, families, visitors.
- Openly discuss your child safeguarding principles, policy, codes of behaviour with them and make sure they know who to turn to if they have a worry or concern.
- Ask children what makes them feel safe and not safe. Really listen and take account of what they say – make sure it is not tokenistic – and make sure that they know you are listening.
- Conduct short questionnaires or run groups to check on how things are going.
- Consider how disabled children can communicate their complaints especially if they have verbal communication difficulties. Remember how vulnerable disabled children are to abuse.