TRAINING AND EDUCATION

It is essential that all Church personnel that are involved in either providing or overseeing activities with children or have a designated child protection role must be provided with appropriate child protection training - along with regular opportunities to update their skills and knowledge.

Maintaining a high standard of training and education will protect:

- children – by ensuring they are in a good safe environment and minimising risk of abuse to them if allegations and suspicions of further abuse do arise

- Church personnel – by clarifying how they are expected to behave with children and what to do if there are allegations and suspicions about the safety of a child

- the integrity of the Church and its missions – by making clear its commitment to keeping children safe and by modelling best practice.

Diocesan and Parish Training

The Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin will require that -

- All personnel – lay people, religious and clergy – should undertake a recognised programme of child protection training and will receive induction training into the diocesan policy and procedures and any specific parish requirements.
- All Training and Education procedures for priests, religious, staff and volunteers should be reviewed on a regular basis.

- *'Keeping Safe'* - the recognised Child Protection training model under *'Children First': National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children (1999)* will be completed by all who are preparing to serve as a Parish Designated Person.

- Up-to-date files should be kept in respect of all personnel; these should include application forms, references and other relevant documentation.
- Ensure that all personnel are properly supervised and supported in order that issues of concern are promptly dealt with as they arise.

Trainers

The diocese will ensure that we will have a number of 'trained trainers' available in order to deliver the *'Keeping Safe'* training course regularly throughout the diocese.

See **Contact Details for Child Protection Services** at the beginning of this document for listing of current office holders

4. TRAINING