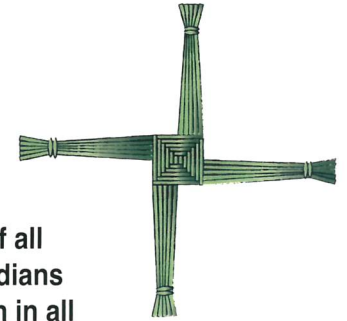


SAFEGUARDING

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

Tusla - Child & Family Agency

Carlow/Kilkenny: 059 913 6570

Offaly: 057 937 0700

Laois: 057 8692567

Kildare: 045 882400

Garda National Protective Services Bureau

01 666 3430 / 01 666 3435 or your Local Garda Station

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Tel: 085 8021633 Email: dlp@kandle.ie

Towards Healing Helpline

1800 313 316 www.towardshealing.ie

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

www.kandle.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

The Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin 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 the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin, 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.

Bishop ✠ Denis Nulty

On Behalf of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. February 2017