Safeguarding Whistle Blowing Policy

**Rationale for Policy**

The aim of this safeguarding whistleblowing policy is to encourage those who have concerns about the procedures pertaining to the welfare and/or safety of children involved in church activities, to express those concerns without the fear that they will be victimised or harassed for doing so.

The policy applies to all church personnel of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin, whether in a voluntary or paid role.

There are protections under civil law for people who report child protection concerns. Under the ‘Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998’, people are protected from civil liability when they report child protection concerns to Designated Liaison Persons (DLPs), and/or statutory agencies provided that they do so reasonably and in good faith.

**Diocesan Response**

The Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin is committed to implementing the highest standards in child safeguarding practices across all related activities.

Whistleblowing can be defined as ‘raising concerns about systemic wrong-doing or misconduct.’

Every person working within the Catholic Church in Ireland has ‘an individual responsibility to bring matters of concern about any dereliction of duty to safeguard children, to the attention of the appropriate person within the Church or statutory authorities.’[[1]](#footnote-1) Failure to do so could result in a child or young person continuing to be unnecessarily left at risk.

Further information is available on the website of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) at [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie) or on the diocesan website [www.kandle.ie/safeguarding](http://www.kandle.ie/safeguarding)

If you have a concern about the welfare and/or safety of children involved in church activities in the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin, please contact the Diocesan Director of Safeguarding, Ailish Higgins on 085 802 1633 or via email safeguarding@kandle.ie

(Please see Whistle blowing form overleaf).

**Safeguarding Whistle-Blowing Record**

**Section 1 – to be completed by person raising a concern of malpractice.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of person raising concern. |  |
| Name of person, group or parish about whom the concern is being raised. |  |
| Brief details of the issue pertaining to systemic wrong-doing or misconduct in the context of child safeguarding. |  |
| Date of when and name of person to whom the concern was raised. |  |

**Section 2 – to be completed by recipient of concern of malpractice.**

|  |  |
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| Date concern was reviewed and assessment of facts.* Concern requires further inquiry.

 or* No Further Action (state reasons).
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| Details of Action Taken.* Updating the Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin.
* Any referral to statutory agencies.
* Any consultation with the NBSCCCI.
* Any restrictions on ministry.
* Any report to DDF.
 |  |
| Date when and details of response given to person who whistle-blew. |  |

Signed: Date:

1. A Safe and Welcoming Church: Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024. (National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland, NBSCCCI) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)