

Child Safeguarding Statement of the Archdiocese of Dublin, June 2020

This statement has been prepared to comply with the requirements of the *Children First Act 2015*.

1 Statement

The Archdiocese of Dublin, as a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland, recognises and upholds the dignity and rights of all children, is committed to ensuring their safety and well-being and will work in partnership with parents/ guardians to do this. The Archdiocese recognises each child as a gift from God, and values and encourages the participation of children in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All diocesan 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.

This is the policy statement of the Catholic Church in Ireland. It is set out in *Safeguarding Children: Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2016*. The document *Child Safeguarding in the Archdiocese of Dublin: Statement, Reporting Procedures and Good Practice Guidelines, 2018* describes the arrangements for the implementation of this policy in the Archdiocese of Dublin. This is supplemented by other documents, namely: *Procedure for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Children or Vulnerable Adults against Clerics of the Archdiocese of Dublin, 2019*; *Working Safely with Children and Young People: Use of information and Digital Technology, 2020*, *Procedure for Maintaining a List of Mandated Persons, 2020* and *Procedure for Appointing a Relevant Person under the Children First Act, 2015*. These documents are available at: www.csps.dublindiocese.ie

2 Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

The Archdiocese of Dublin through its parishes and offices engages with children in a variety of ways which include the following:

- Attendance by children at Church services, usually, but not always, accompanied by their parents or guardians;
- Participation of children in sacramental preparation, sometimes done in conjunction with schools;
- Participation in the sacraments through serving at Mass, singing with choirs, acting as Eucharistic Ministers and Ministers of the Word;
- Participation in youth groups and programmes;
- Participation in retreats and pilgrimages.

This list is not exhaustive.

Safeguarding principles

The Archdiocese of Dublin endeavours to provide an environment for children (persons up to the age of 18 years) that is welcoming, nurturing and safe. The Archdiocese does this by:

- Adopting a child centred approach;
- Obtaining parental/ guardian permission for the involvement of children in Church activities;
- Choosing carefully those who work with children;
- Ensuring that diocesan workers and volunteers behave appropriately towards children;
- Encouraging positive behaviour in children and adopting strategies to prevent bullying;
- Making proper arrangements when organising activities and outings;
- Communicating appropriately with children and young people;
- Encouraging and promoting online safety and appropriate use of digital media;
- Keeping good records.

3 Risk Assessment

The diocesan Child Safeguarding and Protection Service (CSPS) has carried out an assessment of the risk of harm to children, as defined in the Children First Act 2015, through their involvement in Church activities in the Archdiocese. The following lists the identified risks and the practices and procedures in place for managing these risks.

Note: The procedures in place to manage identified risk are described in:

1. *Child Safeguarding in the Archdiocese of Dublin; Statement, Reporting Procedures and Good Practice Guidelines (2018);*
2. *Procedure for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Children or Vulnerable Adults against Clerics of the Archdiocese of Dublin, 2019;* and
3. *Working Safely with Children & Young People: Use of Information and Digital Technology (2020).*

For convenience these are referred to in the risk assessment grid (below) as:

1. Diocesan safeguarding document;
2. Procedural guide;
3. IT guidance document.

Risk Identified	Procedures to manage identified risk
1. Children could be exposed through their involvement in diocesan activities to people who may harm them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe selection and recruitment procedures for those working with children, including vetting of all involved in public ministry and/or having contact with children are set out in section 3.3 of the diocesan safeguarding document. • Procedure for dealing with child protection concerns, including notification to Tusla are set out in Chapter 4 of the diocesan safeguarding document. • Procedure for dealing with allegations of child sexual abuse against clerics are set out in the procedural guide • The requirement on all those who work directly with children to undergo a one-day safeguarding training programme and the procedure for accessing such training is set out in Chapter 2 of the diocesan safeguarding document
2. Those who work with children could engage in unsafe work practices or behave inappropriately towards them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who work with children are selected in accordance with the procedures described above • Those who work with children undergo safeguarding training as described above • The Code of Practice for those working with children is set out in section 3.4 of the diocesan safeguarding document • Complaints procedures are set out in Appendix 2 of the diocesan safeguarding document • Appropriate communication with children (including use of social media) is described in section 3.6 of the diocesan safeguarding document and in the IT guidance document • Procedure for dealing with child protection concerns, including allegations of misconduct against those working on behalf of the Diocese are set out in Chapter 4 of the diocesan safeguarding document
3. Those working with children could operate in unsafe environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper arrangements for activities involving children are described in section 3.5 of the diocesan safeguarding document • Those who work with children are selected in accordance with the procedures described above • Those working with children are required to operate in accordance with the code of practice as described above
4. Children involved in diocesan activities may not understand what is expected of them in terms of their contact with and behaviour towards each other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults who work with children are expected to provide good role models for them as set out in the code of practice for those working with children in 3.4 of the diocesan safeguarding document • Those working with children are expected to help the children develop their own code of behaviour as set out in section 3.4 of the diocesan safeguarding document • Those working with children are directed to specialist resources produced by the National Youth Council of Ireland for preventing and dealing with bullying: http://www.youth.ie/sites/youth.ie/files/Let%27s%20Beat%20Bullying.pdf
5. Concerns that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected may go undetected and unreported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This statement and the accompanying procedures are circulated to parishes and diocesan offices • Safeguarding information, training and advice is provided by CSPS • The diocesan safeguarding message is conveyed through parish and diocesan websites and newsletters, parish safeguarding notices and diocesan Safeguarding Sunday
6. Diocesan personnel, whether mandated persons or others, may be unaware of their responsibility, or not supported, to report concerns that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting thresholds and procedures are set out in the diocesan safeguarding document and covered in training and information sessions • Training for mandated persons being developed and will be rolled out from 2020 (as circumstances permit) • CSPS available to provide advice, guidance and support • Joint reports are made by diocesan DLP/ deputy DLP and mandated persons, where appropriate

Risk Identified (Continued)	Procedures to manage identified risk
7. Mandated persons may not be aware of their responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for mandated persons to be rolled out as described above • Role of mandated person described in diocesan safeguarding document • Information has been sent to mandated persons and contained in CSPS Newsletter circulated in December 2017 • List of mandated persons has been compiled and will be kept updated through liaison with other diocesan offices
8. Safeguarding practice in parishes and diocesan offices may not be implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This statement and diocesan safeguarding document are circulated to parishes • Training and information sessions are provided for those working with children in parishes and diocesan offices • Audits of practice are carried out by CSPS annually • External review by National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland was carried out in 2019
9. Children may be at risk through IT and digital media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines on use of IT, social media and electronic communication with children and young people developed in 2015 and amended and updated in 2020
10. Risks to the safety of children not identified here may arise through their involvement in local parish activities or through their involvement in diocesan activities such as pilgrimages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This statement is circulated to parishes and diocesan offices • Proper arrangements for activities and outings (including pilgrimages) involving children are described in section 3.5 of the diocesan safeguarding document, which includes references to the need to ensure premises used and mode of transport are safe and suitable for children • Members of the diocesan Child Safeguarding and Protection Service (CSPS) provide advice to parishes on the management of risk • Members of CSPS accompany diocesan pilgrimages as designated Child Protection Officers in order to ensure that any risks to the safety of children are identified and managed • Training, particular to the requirements of pilgrimages is provided for those working with children in that context

4 Procedures

This Child Safeguarding Statement of the Archdiocese of Dublin has been developed to comply with the requirements of the *Children First Act 2015*, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017*, and *Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. As described in Section 3 of this document, *Child Safeguarding in the Archdiocese of Dublin; Statement, Reporting Procedures and Good Practice Guidelines, 2018* contains:

- The procedure for the safe selection and recruitment of those who work with children on behalf of the Diocese, its parishes and offices;
- The procedure for provision of and access to safeguarding training, information and advice, including the identification of the occurrence of harm to children;
- The procedure for the reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency;
- The procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against those who work or minister with children on behalf of the Dioceses, its parishes, and offices.

These procedures and those listed below support the Diocese’s intention to safeguard and protect children from harm while involved in Church activities in the parishes and offices of the Archdiocese of Dublin:

- *Procedure for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Children or Vulnerable Adults against Clerics of the Archdiocese of Dublin, 2019;*
- *Procedure for Maintaining a Register of Mandated Persons, 2020;*
- *Procedure for appointing a Relevant Person under the Children First Act, 2015.*

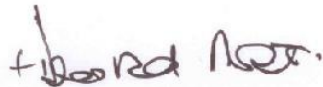
A copy of this Child Safeguarding Statement both is available on request and online at www.csps.dublindiocese.ie .

5 Implementation

The Archdiocese of Dublin is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the practices and procedures that support our commitment to keeping children safe from harm while engaged in Church activities in the Diocese.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed and updated in June 2020 and will be further reviewed in June 2022 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



Date: 2 June 2020

Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, Archbishop's House, Dublin 9

For queries please contact: Andrew Fagan, Director, Child Safeguarding and Protection Service, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road, Dublin DO3 P2E7, who is the Relevant Persons under the Children First Act 2015.

Contact details - Phone: 01 8360314;

Email: andrew.fagan@dublindiocese.ie

Website: www.csps.dublindiocese.ie