

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN STATEMENT 2018

Diocese of Raphoe



**In Accordance with Children First Act 2015 -
on 11th December 2017 the provision relating to
Mandatory Reporting became law in the Republic of Ireland.**

**(Within a Church context a mandated person is a member of clergy, a pastoral care worker, or
someone involved in child safeguarding).**



Child Safeguarding Statement of the Diocese of Raphoe

This statement has been prepared to comply with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015 and is derived from Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016.

Statement

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.

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

The **DIOCESE OF RAPHOE** as a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland exists to promote the teachings of the Catholic Church. This includes the following ministry with children, as defined in Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016:

List of Ministry with Children

Baptism,
First Holy Communion “Do this in memory of me”,
Confirmation ~You Shall be my Witness”,
Sacrament of Reconciliation,
Altar Servers,
Children’s Liturgy, Children’s Choir and Readers,
Diocesan Pilgrimages,
John Paul II Awards, St Eunan’s Summer Camp,

Diocesan Pastoral Care –

Rainbows Programme, Child Counselling, Drama Therapy, Art & Crafts.

This is not an exhaustive list and will continue to be updated with the initiation of any new programmes.

As outlined in the Safeguarding Children 2016 Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland we are committed to the following principles:

Mandatory reporting.

Each of us has a duty to notify the statutory authorities of suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations that a child is being or has been abused: physically; emotionally; sexually; through neglect. Suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations may relate to possible abuse by a member of Church personnel, but they can also relate to incidents in the child's family, or elsewhere in the community.

Caring for the welfare of all children and the adults who work with them.

Measures to create and maintain environments that are safe for children, that prevent abuse, and that create nurturing, caring conditions within the Church for children and the adults who work with them, will continue to be strengthened and reviewed. This will be done through training support, communications and quality assurance.

Responding appropriately to child protection suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations.

Anyone who brings any suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation of current or past abuse of a child to the notice of the Church will be responded to sensitively, respectfully, actively and in a timely manner, in line with statutory child protection procedures and Church requirements.

All suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations that reach the threshold for reporting to the statutory authorities (apart from those received in the Sacrament of Reconciliation) will be reported to the appropriate statutory authorities. This will be done irrespective of the status of the person (lay, cleric or religious) who is suspected of having been abusive to a child. If the allegation relates to a lay member of Church personnel, in addition to notifying the statutory authorities, the allegation must be reported to the Church authority. If the allegation relates to a cleric or religious, in addition to notifying the statutory authorities, the allegation must also be reported to the Church authority and the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland. All Church personnel will cooperate with the statutory authorities in all cases.

In responding to complaints of child sexual abuse relating to clergy and all those in forms of consecrated life, Church authorities will act in accordance with the requirements of civil law and canon law, and so will respect the rights and uphold the safeguards afforded in these, both to the complainant and respondent.

Caring pastorally for complainants and other affected persons.

Those who have suffered child abuse by Church personnel will receive a compassionate and just response, and will be offered appropriate pastoral care, counselling and support as they seek to rebuild their lives. An appropriate pastoral response to the family, parish, congregation or order and to the wider community will be provided, with due regard to the right of privacy of those directly involved, and to the administration of justice.

Caring pastorally for respondents and other affected persons.

This Church body in its response to suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations of child sexual abuse will respect the rights under civil law and canon law of an accused cleric or religious or other Church personnel. A legal presumption of innocence will be maintained during the statutory and Church inquiry processes. As the processes develop, additional assessment, therapy and support services may be offered to the respondent. The Church authority will take responsibility for ensuring that any cleric or religious who is considered to constitute a danger to children is

managed according to a risk management plan. All requisite steps will be taken to restore the good name and reputation of anyone who has been wrongly accused of abusing a child.

Respondents belong to families and diocesan or religious communities. The Church authority will be mindful of the need to provide support to members of families and communities affected by the respondent's changed situation.

Risk Assessment

The table below sets out the identified risks to the safety of children and young people involved in Church activities in the Diocese of Raphoe and the steps taken to minimise the risks of abuse.

<p>Risk Identified</p>	<p>Procedure in place to manage risk identified Policy & Procedures are in place to manage Identified Risk – go to the Diocesan website at: www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/policies Click on – <i>Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards of the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016.</i></p>
<p>1. Those that work with children are unsafe to do so.</p>	<p>Procedures to meet Indicator 1.1 of the Child Safeguarding Policy available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safe recruitment procedures for employees and volunteers, Garda Vetting, References, Interviews ▪ For all Clergy and Religious: Certificate of “good standing” and (for clerics) a Celebret. ▪ Appropriate Training on Child Safeguarding.
<p>2. Those that work with children behave inappropriately towards them.</p>	<p>Procedures to meet Indicator 1.2 of the Child Safeguarding Policy available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Behaviour for Adults & Children ▪ Complaints Procedure ▪ Guidance on the use of mobile phones, technology.
<p>3. Children who use our service do not understand the roles and responsibilities in place to encourage positive behaviour</p>	<p>Procedures to meet Indicator 1.3 of the Child Safeguarding Policy available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Codes of Behaviour for Children ▪ Information Leaflet for Parents/Guardians ▪ Anti-bullying Policy
<p>4. The environment in which work with children is facilitated fails to meet effective safeguarding practice</p>	<p>Procedures to meet Indicators 1.4 and 1.8 of the Child Safeguarding Policy available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safe care for children, dealing with accidents, supervision ratios, guidance on Health & Safety ▪ Risk Assessment is carried out ▪ Safeguarding Training is given
<p>5. External groups who use Church property are unsafe to do so</p>	<p>Procedures to meet Indicator 1.5 of the Child Safeguarding Policy available :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Groups must have their own Safeguarding Policy ▪ Groups must have valid insurance

<p>6. Those who wish to behave dangerously or unethically towards children are able to do so</p>	<p>Procedures to meet Indicators 1.6 and 1.7 of the Child Safeguarding Policy available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whistle-blowing Policy ▪ Complaints Policy ▪ Mandatory Reporting
<p>7. Those who wish to exploit children through the use of digital media in our ministries are able to do so</p>	<p>Procedures to meet Indicator 1.9 of the Child Safeguarding Policy available :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidance of the use of technology, including texting, internet, email and photography ▪ Parental Consent is sought ▪ Guidance of the use of CCTV and webcams. ▪ Vetting of Photographers
<p>8. Church personnel fail to report an allegation, suspicion, concern or knowledge appropriately</p>	<p>Procedures to meet Indicator 2.1 of the Child Safeguarding Policy available from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear Guidance on reporting allegations, suspicion or concern of abuse.
<p>9. Church personnel fail to understand their responsibilities to safeguard children</p>	<p>Procedures to meet Indicators 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 of the Child Safeguarding Policy available :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training provided for all involved in providing Church-related activities ▪ Participating in the National Board Training Strategy ▪ Role specific training is provided.
<p>10. Children and their parents do not understand the Church's policy, procedures and structure to safeguard children</p>	<p>Procedures to meet Indicators 5.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 of the Child Safeguarding Policy available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raising awareness of child safeguarding with children and their parents/guardians in the Church ▪ Developing a Communication Plan ▪ Ensuring Safeguarding message is accessible ▪ Creating a Safeguarding Newsletter (Spring 2018 available)
<p>11. The procedures for safeguarding children fail to be implemented</p>	<p>Procedures to meet Indicators 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 of the Child Safeguarding Policy available :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compliance with the Seven Standards at local level ▪ Monitoring visits by Church Authority ▪ Auditing local Child Safeguarding ▪ Annual reports by the DLP to Church Authority ▪ Ensuring a safeguarding handover and induction of a new Church Authority or DLP ▪ Developing a 3 Year Safeguarding Plan ▪ National Board Review.
<p>12. The Church authority fails to ensure the appointment of a relevant person and maintain a list of mandated persons</p>	<p>Procedures to meeting Indicators 1.1, 6.1 and 2.1 of the Child Safeguarding Policy available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safe recruitment including vetting ▪ Developing a Communication Plan ▪ Reporting allegations of abuse.

PROCEDURES

1. Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/ volunteers of a child availing of our service.

This is part of Indicator 2.1 which is available from:

STANDARD 2 – PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD PROTECTION, SUSPICIONS, CONCERNS, KNOWLEDGE OR ALLEGATIONS.

Reporting allegations of abuse

2. Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children. This is part of Indicator 1.1 available from:
STANDARD 1 – CREATING & MAINTAINING SAFE ENVIROMENTS:
Safe recruitment, including vetting.

3. Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm. This is

part of Indicators 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 available from:

STANDARD 5 – TRAINING & SUPPORT FOR KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Inducting all involved in providing Church related activities,

Participating in the National Board Training Strategy,

Ensuring the delivery of basic safeguarding awareness,

Providing role-specific training.

4. Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to

Tusla. This is part of Indicator 2.1 which is available from:

STANDARD 2 – PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD PROTECTION, SUSPICIONS, CONCERNS, KNOWLEDGE OR ALLEGATIONS.

Reporting allegations of abuse

5. Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons. This is part of Indicator 2.1 which is available from:

STANDARD 2 – PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO CHILD PROTECTION, SUSPICIONS, CONCERNS, KNOWLEDGE OR ALLEGATIONS.

Recognising, Responding and Reporting of abuse

6. Procedure for appointing a relevant person. This is part of Indicators 1.1 and 6.1 which is available from:

STANDARD 1 – CREATING & MAINTAINING SAFE ENVIROMENTS:
Safe recruitment, including vetting.

STANDARD 6 – COMMUNICATING THE CHURCH'S SAFEGUARDING MESSAGE:

Developing a Communication Plan

Implementation

THE DIOCESE OF RAPHOE is committed to safeguarding children through the implementation of *Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016*. This Child Safeguarding Statement and our practice supports our desire to keep children safe from harm while in our ministries. As part of our annual audit against the relevant indicators of the child safeguarding standards, we will review the effectiveness of our practice as outlined in this statement and will revise, as appropriate.

+ Alan McGuckian

Signed: _____

Bishop Alan Mc Guckian S.J.

Date: **11th March 2018.** _____

For any queries relating to this statement please contact:

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