



Safeguarding Newsletter



Diocese of Ossory

November 2019

Issue No 3

Child Safeguarding 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 have a responsibility to safeguard.

Vulnerable Adult Statement

The Diocese of Ossory recognises that there are many people with whom Church personnel have contact who require special care and attention. The Diocese values and encourages the participation of vulnerable adults in all parish liturgies and activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development. All Church personnel must carry out their ministry respecting the rights of the individual in line with gospel values and human rights legislation.

Interim Diocesan Guidelines for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults is available on our web site www.ossory.ie

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP FARRELL

The Church in Ossory and in Ireland that has faced up to the reality of abuse in the Church, is a safer place for children and the measures taken to protect children have made a positive impact. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility. Risk to children and young people is minimised within a safeguarding culture where everyone plays their part in ensuring that all Church activities are safe places for children and young people. The current standards set by the National Safeguarding Board include such things as cooperating with the civil authorities, ensuring those who have offended against children do not continue to minister in the Church, and putting in place policies and practices to create and maintain safe environments for children involved in Church activities. Trust between priests, bishop, religious and the Church faithful can only be rebuilt in a climate of openness, repentance, and with the resolve to implement the very best in professional safeguarding practice.

Getting volunteers vetted, ensuring adequate supervision ratios for children's activities and undertaking safeguarding training can seem burdensome at times, but these measures are effective. We know what needs to be done. We have to keep on doing it. We cannot become complacent as there will always be a need for attentiveness in the area of safeguarding children.

THE CHURCH SAFEGUARDS IN THE PARISH BY

- Appointing Parish Safeguarding Representatives
- Implementing policies and procedures outlined in the Safeguarding Policy and Standards (2016) document
- Providing safeguarding information through posters and leaflets
- Safe recruitment and mandatory training for all staff and volunteers
- Garda Vetting where relevant

OUR SAFEGUARDING STRUCTURE

Diocesan Safeguarding Committee

Is responsible for ensuring that Safeguarding Policy and procedure, in accordance with National safeguarding Guidelines and the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church, are implemented

Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator

Works with parishes to support and encourage effective safeguarding practice.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person

The DLP is always available to hear safeguarding concerns and is responsible for reporting such concerns to the civil authorities.

88 Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Assist Parish Priests in all our parishes.

PARISH SUPPORT VISITS

Parish Support Visits are now a requirement of the NBSCCCI. The purpose is to support parishes to improve Safeguarding Practice. To arrange a visit for your parish contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator on 087 1953850. Safeguarding information evenings for staff and volunteers can also be arranged.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Safeguarding Training in the Diocese is provided on a regular basis Training updates were provided in three deanery venues – Durrow Arms Hotel May 13, St Kieran’s College May 14 and Mooncoin Parish Centre May 20. 17 new Parish Safeguarding Reps have completed the Tusla online training certification programme.

REVIEWING OUR PRACTICE

Parish Safeguarding audits are carried out each year. Audit reports are reviewed by the Safeguarding Committee and action areas are addressed in the safeguarding plan for the coming year. The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland will undertake an audit of Safeguarding practice in the Diocese of Ossory in 2020

CONNECTING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH DIGITAL MEDIA



“.....the internet can help us to be better citizens,..... access to digital networks entails a responsibility for our neighbour whom we do not see but who is nonetheless real and has a dignity which must be respected. The internet can be used wisely to build a society which is healthy and open to sharing,” - **Pope Francis**

As a diocese we want to connect and reach out to young people using a medium they understand. Digital media can be a great asset for providing children with information about God’s teachings and parish life. Whether this relates to sharing information or arranging meetings, the use of technology must be respectful, promote dignity and be safe. If a young person is participating in a church activity where digital media and social network sites e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp etc are used, parents should have given consent for:

- their child to be part of the networking site being used:
- the taking of photographs of their children while engaged in Church related activities and the use of same for promotional purposes.
- to have information regarding activities provided directly to parents by text message.

REPORTING A CONCERN

If you have a concern or wish to discuss a safeguarding query you can contact us in confidence at any time.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Cathal Cullen 0871000232

Deputy DLP

Rose Brophy 087 331 4330

For Safeguarding Queries:

Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator
Safeguarding Office
Waterford Road,
Kilkenny
087 195 3850

For further information and resources

www.ossory.ie/safeguarding

TUSLA Child & Family Agency

Kilkenny Area – 052 617 7302
Laois, Offaly – 044 935 3997

Further information and resources

<https://www.tusla.ie/>

Garda National Protective Services

01 666 3430 / 35

Counselling Services

Towards Healing Confidential Helpline

1800 313 316

www.towardshealing.ie

Towards Peace Spiritual Support Service

01 505 3028

www.towardspeace.ie

