

## Safeguarding Children Policy 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.

If you have a child safety concern or wish to report an allegation of child abuse, please contact one of our Diocesan Designated Liaison Persons who are responsible for receiving/managing concerns and complaints relating to safeguarding that involve Church personnel or contact the statutory bodies listed opposite.

### Designated Liaison Persons:

Mrs Mary Gormley  
087-2882500

Rev Ciaran Kitching  
090-9676151

### TUSLA Child and Family Agency:

Galway/Roscommon  
091-546366  
Offaly/Laois  
057-8692567

### Garda National Protective Services Bureau:

Harcourt Square,  
Dublin 2  
Tel: 01 666 3430 / 3423  
Garda Confidential  
Service:  
Tel: 1800 666 111

For further information on Safeguarding Children within the Diocese of Clonfert, contact  
**Ms Isabelle Mulkern, Safeguarding Co-ordinator**  
**Diocese of Clonfert, Coorheen, Loughrea, Co. Galway**  
**091-841560 or 083-8791745**

For further information on the Diocese of Clonfert Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding Children, visit [www.clonfertdiocese.ie](http://www.clonfertdiocese.ie).

Updated October 2021



## Diocese of Clonfert Safeguarding Children

## Volunteer Welcome

Dear Volunteer,

Your work in assisting with activities for children is of great importance for our faith community. All our church activities are organised in accordance with the *Safeguarding Children Parish Handbook for the Western Province* (2017) which can be found at [www.clonfertdiocese.ie](http://www.clonfertdiocese.ie)

This Handbook is a subset of the extensive guidance produced by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI). It should be read in conjunction with the NBSCCCI's *Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland* and its guidance documents, the most up to date version of which will be available at [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie)

We regularly offer training and in-service to all personnel involved with children within the church. Our aim throughout is to make our churches and church related activities the safest possible place for children.



## As you volunteer, please make sure:

- That you have familiarised yourself with our policy and procedures which are to be found at [www.clonfertdiocese.ie](http://www.clonfertdiocese.ie)
- That you have completed the appropriate recruitment forms.
- That you have read our Code of Behaviour for Adults.
- That you attend the next offered training session.

## Our Code of Behaviour for Adults working with Children/Young People

### It is important for all personnel to:

- Treat all children/young people with respect and dignity.
- Treat all children/young people equally.
- Model positive and appropriate behaviour to all children/young people they come into contact with.
- Be aware of the Church's child safeguarding policy.
- Challenge and report abusive and potentially abusive behaviour.
- Develop a culture of openness, honesty and safety.
- Develop a culture where children/young people have permission to tell and to talk about any concerns or worries that they may have.
- Respect each child's boundaries and support them to develop their own understanding and sense of their rights.
- Be aware of their responsibility for the safety of all children/young people in their care.
- Work in open environments.
- Help children/young people to know what they can do if they have a problem.
- Follow correct procedures on the appropriate use of technology as per *Safeguarding Children Parish Handbook for the Western Province* (2017) which can be found at [www.clonfertdiocese.ie](http://www.clonfertdiocese.ie)

## Adults must never:

- Hit or otherwise physically assault or abuse children/young people.
- Develop sexual relationships with children/young people.
- Develop relationships with children/young people that could in any way be deemed exploitative or abusive.
- Act in any way that may be abusive or may place a child at risk of abuse.
- Use language, make suggestions or offer advice that is inappropriate, offensive or abusive.
- Do things for a child of a personal nature that they can do themselves.
- Condone or participate in behaviour that is illegal, unsafe or abusive.
- Act in any way that is intended to intimidate, shame, humiliate, belittle, or degrade.
- Engage in discriminatory behaviour or language in relation to race, culture, age, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation or political views.
- Consume alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs while having responsibility for or in the presence of children/young people.

### In general, it is best practice not to:

- Be alone with a child/children/young people.
- Take a child/children/young people to your own home/any area where they will be alone with you.
- Involve children/young people in one-to-one contact.  
(If one-to-one contact with children/young people is necessary, see additional guidance in *Safeguarding Children Parish Handbook for the Western Province* (2017) which can be found at [www.clonfertdiocese.ie](http://www.clonfertdiocese.ie).)

At a minimum, two adults are required for each activity involving children. The larger the number of children the more adults that will be needed - see our policy for detailed supervision ratios.