

Details of personnel to contact if you are concerned about the welfare and safety of children

Designated Liaison Persons:

Nuala McLoughlin 086 1574 774

Fr Sean Henry 046 9431251

in the absence of Fr Sean Henry,
contact Mons. Dermot Farrell 01 8255 342

Trainers and Support Persons:

David Gavin 087 679 3523

Antoinette Shaw 086 848 4518

Email: info@meathsafeguarding.ie

Child Safeguarding 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, volunteers and any other Church personnel) 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.

Bishop Michael Smith

Telephone: 044 934 8841
www.meathsafeguarding.ie



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY AND STANDARDS FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND

SUMMARY

The Seven Safeguarding Standards

There are **seven standards** that every Church body is required to meet to fulfil the child safeguarding policy statement. They are:

Standard 1: Creating and Maintaining Safe Environments

Church bodies provide an environment for children that is welcoming, nurturing and safe. They provide access to good role models whom the children can trust, who respect, protect and enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

Standard 2: Procedures For Responding To Child Protection Suspicions, Concerns, Knowledge Or Allegations

Church bodies have clear procedures and guidance on what to do when suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations arise regarding a child's safety or welfare that will ensure there is a prompt response. They also enable the Church to meet all national and international legal and best practice requirements and guidance.



Standard 3: Care and Support for the Complainant

Complainants who have suffered abuse as children receive a compassionate response when they disclose their abuse. They, and their families, are offered appropriate support, advice and pastoral care.

Standard 4: Care and Management of the Respondent

The Church authority has in place a fair process for investigating and managing child safeguarding concerns. When the threshold for reporting has been reached, a system of support and monitoring for respondents (cleric or religious) is provided.

Standard 5: Training and Support for Keeping Children Safe

Church personnel are trained and supported in all aspects of safeguarding relevant to their role, in order to develop and maintain the necessary knowledge, attitudes and skills to safeguard and protect children.

Standard 6: Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message

Church bodies appropriately communicate the Church's child safeguarding message.

Standard 7: Quality Assuring Compliance with the standards

The Church body develops a plan of action to quality assure compliance with the safeguarding standards. This action plan is reviewed annually. The Church body only has responsibility to monitor, evaluate and report on compliance with the indicators under each standard that apply to it, depending on its ministry.