

Safeguarding Children Policy Statement



diocese
of limerick
our catholic community

The Gospel teaches the importance of ensuring that the Catholic Church community is a warm, welcoming and safe place for children.

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. (Mar 10:14-15)

Children are gifts from God, to be cherished and recognised for the joyful contribution they make as valued members of the Church.

Our challenge is to follow the example of Jesus in cherishing them. Safeguarding is key to this important task and should be seen, not as a burden, but as an opportunity to embrace and encourage children's ministry, following the example of Jesus Christ.

We pledge to safeguarding children and young people from harm and to support them in their development as valued and integral members of the Catholic Church in Ireland. The Church's ministry will be inclusive and will uphold their rights.

Consistent with Gospel values, and with civil and criminal law, those who minister will do so with dignity and integrity, honouring their calling to ensure that children and young people are welcomed, cherished and protected, following the example set by Jesus.

This Safeguarding Children Policy will be honoured and complied with by all ordained clerics, by vowed female and male religious, and by all lay staff and volunteers in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

 **Brendan Leahy**
Bishop of Limerick

If you are concerned about the Welfare and Safety of Children within the Church please contact:

Director of Safeguarding (DLP)

Mr. Ger Crowley

Tel: 087 323 3564

Email: ger.crowley@limerickdiocese.org

Garda Protective Services Unit

Tel: 061 433586

Email: limerick.psu@garda.ie

Tusla Child & Family Agency

Duty Social Work Team

Tel: 061 607 101

If you are concerned about the Welfare and Safety of Adults who may be Vulnerable within the Church please contact:

Director of Safeguarding (DLP)

Mr. Ger Crowley

Tel: 087 323 3564

Email: ger.crowley@limerickdiocese.org

HSE Safeguarding & Protection Team

Ms Maggie McNally

Tel: 067 464 70

Email: Safeguarding.cho3@hse.ie

