

What the Diocese of Limerick will do

1
We will create a safe environment and treat children with respect



2
We will listen if you or your child have any worries or concerns



3
We will follow up on all concerns and complaints



Support Services

Towards Healing Helpline 1800 303 416
The Church's free confidential counselling service

Towards Peace 01 5053028
Spiritual support for survivors of abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland

HSE National Adult Counselling Service 1800 234 115
for survivors of childhood abuse.
Limerick Branch: 061 411900, Ré Nua, 6, Mount Vincent Terrace, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick

Connect 1800 477477
Free phone counselling service for any adult who has experienced abuse, trauma or neglect in childhood

Childline 1800 666 666
Part of the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Child Safeguarding Statement of the Diocese of Limerick

https://www.limerickdiocesessafeguarding.com/sites/lds/assets/File/Policy%20and%20Procedures/2024_Child_Safeguarding_Statement.pdf

Safeguarding Children

Information for Parents/Guardians

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Child Safeguarding Policy Statement Diocese of Limerick

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. (Mark 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, following the example of Jesus Christ. The Diocese of Limerick pledges to safeguard 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

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The Diocese of Limerick has committed itself to meeting the Safeguarding Standards developed by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

The Diocesan Policy and Procedures are available on the Diocesan Website and from the Diocesan Office.

All those who work with children involved in Church activities:

- Will be recruited and trained
- Will adhere to a Code of Behaviour

Parental consent must be asked for when a child becomes involved in Church activities.

If you have any concerns or worries, contact the Diocesan Director of Safeguarding.

The Diocesan Director of Safeguarding is responsible for dealing with all complaints/ allegations



The Diocese of Limerick values and encourages the participation of children in the life of the Church and is committed to practices which protect children from harm and abuse.

Staff, volunteers, clergy and religious in this Diocese recognise our responsibilities to ensure the safety and welfare of children and young people.

These responsibilities include:

- Treating children with respect at all times.
- Ensuring that children will be listened to and heard.
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, parents/guardians, staff, volunteers, clergy and religious.
- Responding promptly to and sharing information about concerns with the relevant agencies and involving parents/ guardians and children appropriately.
- Carefully following the procedures for recruitment, training and management of clergy, religious, staff and volunteers.
- Being committed to reviewing and evaluating our policy and procedures on an on-going basis.
- Adopting best practice in accordance with the National Board for Safeguarding Children Standards & Guidance Document



If you are concerned about the welfare and safety of children or wish to raise a matter from the past you may contact any of the following:

An Garda Síochána Protective Services Unit

Divisional Headquarters, Henry St, Limerick
061 212400/212448

Tusla - The Child and Family Agency

Tusla Building, St Joseph's Campus, Mulgrave Street, Limerick
Tel: 061 588688 www.tusla.ie

Diocesan Safeguarding Service

Director of Safeguarding (D.L.P.)
087 3233564 | 061 35000
ds@limerickdiocese.org

Fr. Noel Kirwan Deputy D.L.P. 061 41462

Ms. Catherine Kelly Deputy D.L.P. 061 35000

Safeguarding Trainers

Fr Chris O'Donnell
Chris Sheridan
James Connery
Frances Barrett
Caroline Hannon
John O'Reilly
Contact the Safeguarding Service 061 350000

Parish Safeguarding Reps

Contact local Parish Priest



Every child and young person is precious and has a right to be kept safe from harm or abuse.

Every adult in the Church must help keep children safe by following the Diocesan Policy for Safeguarding Children.



Other Numbers that you can call for help are:



Safeguarding Children

Information for Children and Young People



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Some info for you...



For further information (including cyber bullying) visit the **Tusla** website www.tusla.ie



If an adult in the Church is hurting you or someone you know then you should tell an adult you trust or contact any of the following:

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding (D.L.P)
087 3233564 | 061 350000
ds@limerickdiocese.org

An Garda Síochána Protective Services Unit
Divisional Headquarters,
Henry St, Limerick
061 212400/202448

Tusla - The Child and Family Agency
Tusla Building, St Joseph's Campus
Mulgrave Street, Limerick
061 588688



Adults should...

Treat children with respect at all times

Never hurt children

Keep children safe from anyone who could hurt or abuse them

Report all concerns regarding the welfare of children and young people



What does Child Abuse mean?

Most children grow up being loved, cared for and safe but some need to be protected from abuse. Abuse is bad treatment by adults, or other children, which harms a child. This can be when a child is:

Told hurtful things that make them feel scared, unloved and unwanted

Physically hurt, for example hitting, shaking, throwing, burning or scalding

Made to do, or watch, something sexual

Not looked after properly, does not have enough food or clothes or is left alone

Bullied, for example, being called names, being hit or pushed, having rumours spread about them or being threatened by someone online



If someone hurts you or makes you feel uncomfortable or upset you should always...

Tell them to stop - Say No!

Get away from them

Tell an adult you trust.

Remember...

It is never your fault if someone hurts you and you should never keep secrets about it!

If you are scared or worried, tell someone



