

## What the Diocese of Limerick will do

### 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

Please visit our website for a more extensive list of support services available for children and young people in Limerick City and County

[www.limerickdiocese.org](http://www.limerickdiocese.org)



Comprehensive information on safeguarding in the Catholic Church is available at the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie)



# Safeguarding Children

## Information for Parents/Guardians



diocese  
of **limerick**  
our catholic community

### Diocese of Limerick 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 wellbeing, 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.

+ **Brendan Leahy**  
Bishop of Limerick



diocese  
of **limerick**  
our catholic community

**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





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 properly and  
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 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.
- **The Diocesan Director of Safeguarding is responsible for dealing with all complaints/allegations.**



**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

Divisional Headquarters, Henry St, Limerick  
061 212400

#### Tusla - The Child and Family Agency

Area Managers Office, HSE Building, Ballycummin Avenue, Raheen Business Park  
061 482792 [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

#### Diocesan Safeguarding Service

Ger Crowley      Director of Safeguarding (D.L.P.)  
087 3233564 | 061 315856  
[ger@ldo.ie](mailto:ger@ldo.ie)

Fr. Noel Kirwan      Deputy D.L.P. 061 414624

Terry Boyle      Parish Support Worker  
086 1304775  
[terry@ldo.ie](mailto:terry@ldo.ie)

Aoife Walsh      Safeguarding Trainers  
Chris O'Donnell      061 400133  
[awalsh@ldpc.ie](mailto:awalsh@ldpc.ie)  
[codonnell@ldpc.ie](mailto:codonnell@ldpc.ie)

Parish Safeguarding Representatives      Contact local Parish Priest or Terry Boyle  
086 1304775 | [terry@ldo.ie](mailto:terry@ldo.ie)





Other Numbers that you can call for help are:

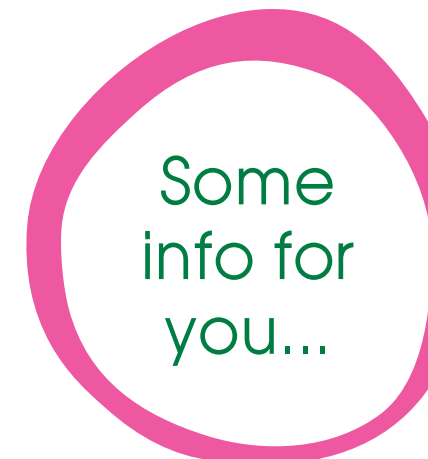


## Safeguarding Children

Information for  
**Young People**



diocese  
of **limerick**  
our catholic community



For further information  
(including cyber bullying)  
visit the  
Tusla website  
[www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

Comprehensive information on safeguarding in the Catholic Church is available at the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.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)**  
Ger Crowley  
087 3233564 | 061 315856  
ger@ldo.ie

**An Garda Síochána**  
Divisional Headquarters,  
Henry St, Limerick  
061 212400

**Tusla - The Child and Family Agency**  
061 482792 | [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)



**Adults should...**

**Treat children with respect at all times**

**Never hurt children**

**Always keep children safe from anyone who could hurt or abuse them**

**Make sure you treat each other with respect**



## 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 and 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 that they don't want to do

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**



