

**POLICY  
ON  
SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN  
2010**

**DIOCESE OF  
WATERFORD  
AND  
LISMORE**



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## Foreword

This booklet contains the updated policies, procedures and codes of behaviour for safeguarding children to which we have committed ourselves in our pastoral ministry in the diocese of Waterford and Lismore. It brings together, in a convenient and accessible form, the different elements of our policies and the guiding principles underlying them.

Our Church must constantly support and safeguard our children. We must provide safe and secure environments where young people can gather to explore and celebrate their faith together. With this in mind the Committee for Safeguarding Children in the diocese of Waterford and Lismore has put together this booklet which will guide us in caring for children and young people as they participate in their local faith community.

This Safeguarding Children Policy of the diocese of Waterford and Lismore is compliant with civil legislation (*Children First 1999*) and Church guidelines (*Safeguarding Children – Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2008*).

I am deeply indebted to the Child Safeguarding Committee, the Child Safeguarding Trainers, and the Child Safeguarding Representatives in each parish of the diocese. All have given so generously of their time and talents in putting these policies and structures in place. As well, I thank the great number of parents and volunteers who, by their vigilance, do all in their power to ensure that children are safe. May the Lord bless and reward them all.



William Lee  
Bishop of Waterford and Lismore

## **Diocesan Child Safeguarding Policy Statement and Contact Details**

The Diocese of Waterford and Lismore seeks to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to make known the Good News of Christ more fully through worship, service and witness. In keeping with this aim, ministry with children and young people in the Diocese is informed by the Gospel values of Truth, Justice and Love.

The Diocese of Waterford and Lismore values and encourages the participation of children and young people in parish liturgies and in activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development. We recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and young people. We are committed to their safeguarding and support in a way that promotes their human dignity and integrity as children of God.

In keeping with this, we undertake to do all in our power to create safe environments for children and young people, and to ensure their safeguarding from either physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect.

We recognise that all involved in working with children and young people have a special duty of care towards them. We are committed to putting procedures in place through which this care is put into effect so that the rights of children and young people to safely and actively participate in the life of the Church are upheld.

For further information on parish policies, please contact the parish representatives for Safeguarding Children

### **Diocesan Child Safeguarding Contact Details:**

If you have a child safeguarding concern or wish to report an allegation, please contact one of the following:

#### **Diocese of Waterford and Lismore**

The Designated Officer for the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore is:  
Fr. Paul Murphy Tel: (051) 384192

#### **HSE:**

H.S.E. Office Phone: Waterford (051) 842728  
Dungarvan (058) 20900 | Clonmel (052) 6177302 / (052) 6177303

#### **The Gardaí:**

Contact should be made with your local Gardaí

#### **Support Person:**

If you, or anyone you know, requires support or pastoral care in relation to a child safeguarding issue please contact the following pastoral care/support person:

Name: Ann Howard Telephone: (087) 2166789

***The above information is provided in poster form for all parishes and should be displayed in a prominent place in each Church in the Diocese***

## Ráiteas Dheoise Phort Láirge agus An Leasa Mhóir um Pholasáí Chosaint Leanaí agus Sonraí Caidrimh

Tá Deoise Phort Láirge agus An Leasa Mhóir ag iarraidh dea-scéal Chríost a chur in iúl níos iomláine trí adhradh, sheirbhís agus fianaise. Dá réir sin tá an mhinistreacht le leanaí agus óige na deoise á múnú ag trí luacha den Soiscéal: firinne, ceart agus grá.

Tá meas ag Deoise Phort Láirge agus An Leasa Mhóir ar pháirtíocht na leanaí agus na hóige i liotúirgí agus in imeachtaí a chabhraíonn lena bhforbairt spioradálta, fisiciúil, mothálach agus sóisialta agus tacaíonn leo. Tuigimid agus caomhnaímid dínit agus cearta na leanaí agus na hóige go léir. Glacaimid leis mar dhualgas tacú le leanaí agus iad a chosaint i slí a chuireann a ndínit dhaonna agus a n-ionracas mar chlann Dé chun cinn.

Dá bhrí sin cuirimid romhainn a bhfuil ar ár gcumas a dhéanamh chun timpeallachtaí sábháilte a sholáthar do leanaí agus don óige agus a gcosaint ó dhroch-úsáid nó faillí fhisiciúil ghnéasach nó mothálach.

Tuigimid go bhfuil dualgas ar gach éinne atá ag obair le leanaí agus leis an óige cúram ar leith a dhéanamh díobh. Tá glactha againn leis beartais a chur ar bun trína gcuirfear an cúram seo i gcrích i dtreo go gcuirfear cearta leanaí agus daoine óga chun sábháilteachta agus páirtíochta i saol na hEaglaise chun cinn.

Le breis eolais a fháil ar pholasaithe déan caidreamh le hionadaithe an pharóiste um Chosaint Leanaí.

Sonraí faoi Chaidreamh um Chosaint Leanaí sa Deoise:

Má tá fadhb faoi chosaint leanaí dod' bhuaireamh nó más mian leat tuairisc a thabhairt faoi líomhain déan teagmháil le:

### **Deoise Phort Láirge agus An Leasa Mhóir:**

Oifigeach Ainmnithe Dheoise Phort Láirge agus an Leasa Mhóir:

An t-Ath. Paul Murphy: (051) 384192

### **HSE:**

Oibrí Sóisialta ar Dualgas: Port Láirge: (051) 842728

Dún Garbhán: (058) 20900 | Cluain Meala: (052) 6177302 / (052) 6177303

### **Na Gardaí:**

Ba chóir dul i dteagmháil leis na Gardaí áitiúla.

### **Tacaíocht:**

Má tá tacaíocht nó cúram tréadach i leith cúram leanaí de dhíth ortsa nó ar dhuine ar a bhfuil aithne agat, téigh i dteagmháil leis an gcúramóir tréadach/tacaí seo:

Ainm: Ann Howard Guthán: (087) 2166789

***Tá an fhaisnéis romhainn ar fáil i bhfoirm póstaer do gach paróiste agus ní foláir é a bheith le feiscint in áit shoiléir i ngach eaglais agus séipéal sa deoise***

## General Principles Guiding Best Practice for Ministry with Children and Young People

The Diocese of Waterford and Lismore:

- Values and encourages the active participation of children and young people in the life of the Church in ways that enhance their physical, emotional and spiritual growth. Within the safe, secure and welcoming environment of their faith community each child/young person should feel valued, encouraged and affirmed.
- Recognises and upholds the fundamental right of each child and young person to be respected, nurtured, cared for and protected. These rights are embedded both in our Gospel values and in civil legislation.
- Acknowledges and reaffirms its commitment to the care and safeguarding of children and young people as 'children of God', with intrinsic dignity and irreducible worth.
- Believes that the safeguarding of children is everyone's responsibility, but accepts that all those working with children and young people in Church ministries have a special duty of care towards them.
- Is committed to 'best practice' in the area of safeguarding children, including:
  - > the development of effective structures for safeguarding children and young people
  - > responding to suspicions or allegations of child abuse, which includes cooperating with the relevant civil authorities
  - > providing pastoral support and training for all Church personnel.
- Is willing to listen to children and young people and involve them, where appropriate, in decision-making.
- Promotes an ethos and approach, which at all times gives paramount consideration to the welfare of the child and young person.
- Is committed to communicating our safeguarding message to all children and adults throughout the Diocese.
- Is committed to following the procedures set out on page 11 of this document relating to responding to allegations of abuse:
  - > respond to the needs of the child
  - > in the event of a complaint against a member of staff or volunteer, we will immediately ensure the safety of the child and inform the parents / guardians / primary carers as appropriate unless the action puts the child at further risk.
  - > inform the Diocesan Designated Officer and/or Duty Social Worker/and/or An Garda Síochána

## Definition of Child Abuse

The Diocese of Waterford and Lismore recognises child abuse as being neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse as defined in the State Guidelines *Children First* and also in *Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2008*.

**Neglect** – where the child suffers significant harm or impairment of development by being deprived of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation, supervision and safety, attachment to and affection from adults or medical care.

**Sexual Abuse** – when a child is used by another person for his or her gratification or sexual arousal or for that of others.

**Physical Abuse** - any form of non accidental injury, which results from the wilful or neglectful failure to safeguard a child.

**Emotional Abuse** - occurs when the child's needs for affection, approval, consistency and security are not met.

***Children First, National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Dublin: Stationery Office, 1999, pp. 125–131***

***Safeguarding Children Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2008 pp. 73 – 76.***  
*The National Office for Safeguarding Children.*

## Safeguarding Procedures

In order to support the Diocesan Child Safeguarding Policy, the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore is committed to putting procedures in place to ensure the welfare and safeguarding of children and young people, together with the welfare of those who work with them. **The welfare of the child is always paramount.**

These procedures are accessible to all who are working with children and young people. They will be reviewed every 3 years in keeping with current child safeguarding policy and procedures.

This document outlines the procedures which need to be put in place as follows:

- A code of conduct for all adults, children and young people
- A clearly defined process for the recruitment, selection and supervision of adults working with children and young people, which will include volunteer/employment application forms, garda vetting, and proof of identification
- Declaration forms for all adult leaders
- Induction and training records
- Attendance records
- Procedures for reporting child safeguarding concerns and complaints
- Appropriate supervision ratios of adults to children and young people, while maintaining the practice that no child or young person is left alone with an adult
- Adequate record keeping processes including:
  - ✓ Record of activities and participants
  - ✓ A clearly communicated Accident and Emergency plan
  - ✓ Medical information and treatment permission, as appropriate for all children and young people
  - ✓ Signed parental/guardian consent for each child and young person
  - ✓ Participant forms
  - ✓ Incident/Accident report forms
  - ✓ Attendance records
  - ✓ Contact information for parents/guardians
  - ✓ Case files detailing allegations and responses
- Named group leader/designated person who can be contacted in relation to any query about good practice procedures. Every action and procedure must consider the overall needs of the child
- Actions taken to protect the child should not in themselves be abusive or cause the child unnecessary distress.



## Communicating with Parents & Guardians

Parents and guardians will be informed of all aspects of the ministry and/or pastoral activity in which their child is involved. It is our policy to share information with the parents/guardians including, information relating to pilgrimages, retreats or other trips away, transport to and from events, etc. It is our practice to obtain written parental/ guardian consent prior to a child taking up an activity and to communicate with parents/guardians/children regarding the participation requirements.

## Confidentiality Statement

The Diocese of Waterford and Lismore recognises the importance of ensuring peoples' right to confidentiality. The Diocese is committed to keeping all personal information about children and their families confidential. The only exception may be when child safeguarding or welfare concerns arise in relation to a child. In this situation, information will be shared on a need to know basis in the best interest of the child.

- Giving information to appropriately designated persons and/or statutory authorities for the safeguarding of a child is outside the limits of professional confidentiality;
- Primary carers have a right to know if personal information is being shared and a report is being made to the HSE, unless doing so could put the child at further risk.

## The Designated Officer(s)

It is the Designated Officer's responsibility to receive information where it is alleged or suspected that a child(ren) has been or is being abused by any member of the Church, including volunteers.

The Designated Officer is responsible for managing the allegation/disclosure or concern from start to finish including:

- (a) the preliminary internal enquiry;
- (b) referral to the HSE/Garda Síochána;
- (c) any subsequent internal investigations. (*Safeguarding Children - Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2008 P.84*)

## Role of the Designated Officer

1. Receive information about a concern or allegation
2. Ensure that the procedures outlined in Safeguarding Children - Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland have been followed, and ensure that a referral has been made to the statutory authorities.
3. Create a child safeguarding case file for every referral. This must include a log of actions, events and information received. Entries should be made as soon as possible after the event but before the end of that day. They must be timed, dated and signed.
4. Place all written records in connection with the case in the Child Safeguarding Case File.
5. Explain the procedures to the person who has raised the concern.
6. Inform the Church Authority that a complaint has been made.
7. Inform the alleged perpetrator that an allegation has been made, the nature of the allegation and the procedures that are being followed. He/she should be offered the services of an adviser.
8. Keep the person who raised the allegation and the alleged perpetrator informed on how the inquiry is progressing.
9. Obtain a written report on the outcome of any investigations from the HSE/An Garda Síochána.
10. Conduct an internal investigation at the conclusion of any external investigation.

### **Designated Officer for the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore:**

**Fr. Paul Murphy (051) 384192**

***Childrens' involvement in Church activities takes place mainly at parish level. It is at this level that the need for awareness of principles and procedures for child protection is greatest, and where the commitment of everyone involved with children is crucial.***

*(Our Children, Our Church P.16)*

## **Parish Safeguarding Representatives**

- Two local Safeguarding Children Representatives are required in each parish to work alongside the relevant Church authority.
- The persons appointed need to have the personal qualities, interest and life experience fitting for the tasks involved.
- The position is voluntary, but Parish Safeguarding Representatives will be provided with induction, support and regular training.
- The Representative need not be a paid employee nor a professional or expert, and is likely to be a lay person.
- He/ she will be given a role specification, be required to undergo training and will be able to draw on help and support.

## **Role of Parish Representatives**

The role of the Parish Representative is to promote the safeguarding of children within Church organisations by:

1. Raising awareness of what safeguarding children is through facilitating information sessions.
2. Disseminating information on *Safeguarding Children – Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland* and circulating information widely to the public, especially to Church based organisations.
3. Ensuring that any activities run within Church organisations are provided for in a manner that ensures the safety and well-being of the children involved (for example, appropriate level of supervision for the activity, insurance etc.).
4. Ensuring that the contact details of the Designated Officer are widely publicised.
5. The Parish Representative will help the parish to undertake the following:
  - Agree a policy statement about the parish vision for children in the local community and its commitment to safeguard children;

- Implement basic procedures that will show how the policy statement is followed through;
  - Put in place a code of conduct, that is, a list of ways in which staff and volunteers will conduct themselves when working with children and young people and also a code of conduct for children;
  - With the assistance of the Trainers and the Diocesan Coordinator for Safeguarding Children, review and support the implementation of Diocesan Policy within the parish:
  - Liaise with the Diocesan Coordinator for Safeguarding Children and the Diocesan Committee for Safeguarding Children to receive support/advice and to review the implementation of Diocesan Policy within the parish.
6. Facilitate anyone who needs to make a complaint and/or requires pastoral care by ensuring that contact information for the relevant Church and Statutory Personnel for Safeguarding Children is made known within the parish.

***The overall responsibility for safeguarding children in any Church organisation remains with the relevant Church authority, such as the parish priest. (Safeguarding Children - Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2008 P.54)***

## Reporting Procedures

The diocese is committed to promoting the safety, welfare, and safeguarding of children and takes all concerns, allegations, suspicions, and disclosures of abuse very seriously.

The statutory authorities state, as a general principle, that any person who suspects that a child is being abused or is at risk of abuse has a responsibility to report their concern to the appropriate authorities.

This procedure sets out the action that shall be taken if any concern, allegation, suspicion, or disclosure is made, whether current or historical, against clergy, staff or volunteers. The welfare of children is paramount.

- If a person suspects or is told that a child is being or has been abused by clergy, staff or volunteers, he/she should inform the Diocesan Designated Officer.
- The diocesan Designated Officer informs the Bishop, the Gardai and the HSE immediately. A formal report is completed.
- If the diocesan Designated Officer is not available or the circumstances of the complaint indicate that this action may not be appropriate, the person should go straight to the Gardai and HSE. However, it is recommended that, in this case, advice and support be sought from the National Office for Safeguarding Children.

## Recruitment Procedures

The procedures for recruiting personnel will include:

1. All vacancies (paid or voluntary) should be openly advertised.
2. Develop a clear job description.
3. Applicants will be required to complete the following forms:
  - Application form for Adult Volunteers/Leaders
  - Declaration form
  - Garda Vetting form
4. Applicants will provide proof of identification i.e. photo ID.
5. Applicants will submit names of two referees (not family members) who can provide references. References will be received in writing and followed up. Verbal contact must be made with all referees.
6. Up-to-date files should be kept with the parish records in respect of all personnel. These would include application forms, references and other relevant documentation.
7. An interview will take place – at least two interviewers will be present.
8. All personnel should undertake a recognised programme of Child Safeguarding Training.

Please note that training support and all relevant forms are provided during the course of the Parish Representative training programme offered through the Diocesan Trainers for Safeguarding Children.

The relevant forms are available on [www.waterfordlismore.com](http://www.waterfordlismore.com) and can be emailed to parishes on request.

## Supervision of Activities

**There should be an appropriate supervision ratio of adults to children and young people at all times ensuring that no child or young person is left alone with an adult.**

**Recommended Supervision Ratios: *Safeguarding Children - Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2008 P.44***

### **Under 8 years**

0 to 2 years = one adult to 3 children

2 to 3 years = one adult to 4 children

3 to 7 years = one adult to 8 children (6 children for outdoor activity)

### **8 years and over**

2 adults to 20 children (15 children for outdoor activity)

There should be one additional adult for every 10 children

The minimum adult/young person ratio should ideally be **one adult per group of eight plus one other adult, and allowing an additional adult for each group of ten thereafter.**

- Local circumstances, the ages of the children, the experience of the volunteers and the staff should be taken into consideration
- Safety, ability/disability of young people and the nature of the activities being undertaken may require that these ratios be considerably lower
- Mixed gender groups must have an appropriate number of male and female adult leaders
- A duty roster of adults to ensure adequate supervision of children and young people at all times must be drawn up
- Parents will have access to a list of named group leaders for activities involving their children and young people
- All those wishing to be a volunteer or a leader in Church organisations in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore must:
  - Complete and sign the Application Form for Adult Volunteers/Leaders
  - Complete and sign the Declaration Form
  - Provide Garda clearance
  - Agree to abide by and sign the Code of Conduct.
- All children and young people who wish to participate in activities/special activities organised by the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore must complete and sign the appropriate Participant Application Form. This form must also be completed and signed by a parent or guardian of the child or young person.

## **Diocesan Code of Conduct for Adults working with Children and Young People**

This Code of Conduct applies to all adults who work with children and young people on a professional or voluntary basis in Church related activities

- All persons working with children and young people must sign and adhere to the Diocesan Code of Conduct.
- Children and young people will be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity.
- Leaders will always engage with children and young people in an open manner, taking care not to show favouritism.
- Adults must not work in isolation with children and/or young people. In instances where pastoral need may require privacy for a young person, working in isolation should be undertaken in a transparent and open manner.
- Physical contact between children/young people and leaders must be appropriate at all times. While physical contact is a valid way of comforting or reassuring a child it should take place in an open environment and in response to the need of the child and not the need of the adult.
- Photographs of children/young people engaged in Church related activities may only be taken and/or made public with parental and the child's consent. Names of children must not accompany photographs.
- Where a Church activity involves the use of computers, an email and internet policy will be put in place.
- Inappropriate use of videos, DVD's, cameras, land line phones, mobile phones and picture mobile phones will not be allowed by adults working on behalf of the Church and young people while participating in Church activities. All mobile phones will be kept on silent or turned off during Church activities.
- Children/young people will not be permitted to consume alcohol or use illicit drugs when participating in Church related activities.
- Adults will not consume alcohol or use illicit drugs while having responsibility for or in the presence of children/young people.
- Personal details of children and young people will be held only by the named leader/designated person.
- Adults working with children and young people will not give their personal details to children and young people in their care.
- Inappropriate or vulgar language is not permitted.
- Every action and procedure must consider the overall needs of the child.
- Actions taken to safeguard the child/young person should not in themselves be abusive or cause the child unnecessary distress.
- Where there is a conflict between safeguarding the child/young person and the rights of carers and adults, the welfare and best interest of the child/young person are the first and primary considerations.

## Diocesan Code of Conduct for Children and Young People

A code of conduct specific to children and young people must be drawn up in direct consultation with children and young people. **It is important that each group of children and young people directly contributes to the formation of their code of conduct.**

All children must sign and adhere to the Diocesan Code of Conduct for children and young people.

The following points should be used as a minimum standard:

- Children and young people will be aware that leaders also have a Code of Conduct
- Children and young people will respect the fact that leaders will not work alone with children and young people
- Children and young people will treat each other and their leaders with courtesy, respect and dignity
- Children and young people will not be permitted to consume alcohol or use illicit drugs while participating in Church related activities.
- Inappropriate language or sexually suggestive comments will not be permitted by children or young people
- Physical contact between children and young people will be of an appropriate nature at all times

## Anti-bullying Policy

**Childrens' views will be welcome. Children will have a voice and will be listened to.**

The following are some examples of bullying. However, this list is not exhaustive and children and young people will have many other points to list:

- Name calling
- Fighting/kicking/punching
- Making suggestive comments
- Intimidation
- Threatening
- Ignoring/excluding
- Damaging property
- Spreading rumours
- Sending abusive text messages



## Policy Statement Relating to Computer Use

**In keeping with the parish policy on Safeguarding Children the use of computers and Internet facilities should be carefully monitored and managed by leaders at all times during parish activities.**

Computer use by children during parish activities should be supervised by responsible leader/s/adult/s at all times.

Parental/guardian permission should be obtained prior to the supervised use of the computer/Internet during parish activities by children.

Appropriate recording systems should be in place to record children's use of the Internet.



## Guidelines for Trips Away From Home

- All trips need careful advance planning including adequate provision for safety with regard to transport, facilities, activities and emergencies. A risk assessment should be carried out in advance. Adequate insurance must be in place.
- Written parental consent must be obtained well in advance for each specific trip and related activities.
- A copy of the itinerary and contact telephone numbers should be made available to parents or guardians.
- There must be adequate and, where possible, gender-appropriate, supervision for boys and girls.
- Arrangements and procedures must be put in place to ensure that rules and appropriate boundaries are set and maintained in the relaxed environment of trips away.
- Particular attention should be given to ensuring that the privacy of young people is respected when they are away on trips.
- Sleeping areas for boys and girls should be separate and supervised by two adults of the same gender as the group being supervised.
- If, in an emergency situation, an adult considers it necessary to be in a childrens' dormitory or bedroom without another adult they should (a) immediately inform another adult in a position of responsibility and (b) make a diary note of the circumstances.
- The roles and responsibilities of children and young people must be clearly communicated to them having been outlined and agreed upon with them and their parents prior to departure.
- The task required of young helpers will be appropriate to their age and capacity. Young people will not be asked to carry out personal care tasks.
- Care will be taken to ensure that leaders do not work alone with young people.
- The diocese/parish must have a named person assigned for the trip to whose immediate attention all concerns and/or complaints can be brought.
- All concerns and/or complaints will be followed through in a timely and efficient manner.
- In the case of pilgrimages, a Designated Medical Officer should be appointed.
- Further information on residentials and trips away from home is available from the Diocesan Coordinator for Safeguarding Children, Tel. (051) 874199

## Ministry of Altar Servers

### Diocese of Waterford and Lismore - Summary Policy Statement

In the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore, children and young people take part in the very special ministry of serving at the table of the Lord. Our altar servers are most important to the celebration of the Eucharist in the parish community. Recognising the value and right of children to actively participate in the Church community, the Diocese is committed to ensuring their safety and well-being. Above all, the diocese recognises the need to protect children and young people in a way that promotes their human dignity, integrity and irreducible worth as children of God.

The diocese recognises that all involved in working with altar servers have a special duty of care towards them and have committed to engaging in a process to work towards putting procedures in place through which this care is put into effect.

#### General Good Practice Procedures:

The Diocese of Waterford and Lismore will work to support each parish in having the following in place:

- Signed parental consent for each altar server
- Appropriate supervision ratios of adults to children while maintaining the practice of ensuring that no child is left alone with an adult
- Adequate record keeping including: Participant Forms; Sign-in/Sign out sheets;
- Incident/Accident Report Forms; Volunteer Application Form/Declaration Form
- Procedures for recruitment & overseeing volunteers working with servers
- A named contact person for the parish who can be called in relation to any query about good practice procedures for altar servers
- An information/induction session for all parents/guardians and altar servers

### Children in Church

"Ministry to children and young people is an essential and honoured part of the Church's mission and activity, given to us by Jesus himself". "By working together to implement the standards and guidance in this document **especially at parish and community level**, everyone can contribute to a church in which every child feels valued and safe". (*Safeguarding Children - Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2008 P.8*).

## Diocesan Personnel for Safeguarding Children

### **Diocesan Committee for Safeguarding Children:**

Mgr. Nicholas O'Mahony, P.P., V.G. Chairperson  
Mrs. Bernadette Cox, Mrs. Moira Dunford, Mr. Gerry Halley, Mr. Martin Hayes,  
Mrs. Ann Howard, Sr. Ann O'Connor, Mrs. Carol Walsh, Dr. Elizabeth Walsh.

**Diocesan Co-ordinator for Safeguarding Children:** Ms. Avril Halley (051) 874199

### **Safeguarding Children Trainers:**

Ms. Breda Delahunty,  
Ms. Maria Ahearn

**Designated Officer:** Fr. Paul Murphy (051) 384192

**Deputy Designated Officer:** Msgr. Nicholas O'Mahony (051) 381525

**Support Person:** Ms. Ann Howard (087 2166789)

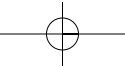
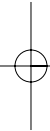
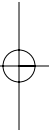
**Local Safeguarding Representatives:** Parish Representatives have been appointed for each parish. Their contact details are displayed in the Church(es) in each parish.

This Document has been updated in line with "Safeguarding Children - Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2008" and has been approved by the National Board for Safeguarding Children. The full text is available on [www.waterfordandlismore-diocese.com](http://www.waterfordandlismore-diocese.com)

## The National Board for Safeguarding Children

"Our Children, Our Church: Child Protection Policies and Procedures for the Catholic Church in Ireland" (known as OCOC) was launched in December 2005 following its endorsement by the Irish Bishops' Conference, the Conference of Religious of Ireland and the Irish Missionary Union. A core recommendation of OCOC was the establishment of a National Board for Safeguarding Children and a National Office to implement the Board's decisions and policies. The National Board for Safeguarding Children was established in 2006 to provide best practice advice and to monitor the safeguarding of children in the Catholic Church. It can be contacted at New House, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel. 01 5053124. Email: [ian.elliott@safeguarding.ie](mailto:ian.elliott@safeguarding.ie)

The "Safeguarding Children - Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2008" was launched in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore in 2009. It is available on [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie)



POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN 2010