



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Western Province

Dioceses of Tuam, Achonry, Clonfert, Elphin, Galway and Killala

POLICY STATEMENT

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 ministry, following the example of Jesus Christ.

This Church body 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.

Details of Personnel to Contact if you are Concerned about the Welfare and Safety of Children:

If you have a safeguarding concern or wish to report an allegation of child abuse, please contact one of our Diocesan Designated Liaison Persons who are responsible for receiving / managing concerns and complaints relating to safeguarding children that involve Church personnel.

Designated Liaison Person(s)

Diocese of Elphin

Mary Nicholson 086 - 3750277

Helen Diskin 087 - 0516888

Tusla Child and Family Agency Contact Numbers

Sligo/Leitrim 071 - 9155133

Galway/Roscommon 091 - 881860

Mayo 094 - 9049137

Clare 061 - 588688

Laois/Offaly 044 - 9353997

An Garda Siochana Confidential Service

1 800 - 555 222

Diocese of Elphin

For further information on safeguarding, contact:

Director of Safeguarding

Mary Nicholson on 086 - 3750277

or mary@elphindiocese.ie

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March 2025