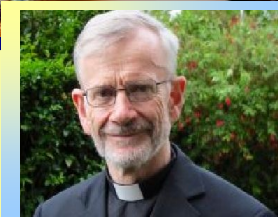


Newsletter Spring 2018

Safeguarding Children in the Diocese of Raphoe



Message from our Bishop

The Diocese of Raphoe is committed to ensuring that all children and Vulnerable Adults are welcomed and feel safe in our Church. As we celebrate the *World Meeting of Families*, let us reflect on Matthew 19:14, Jesus said, " Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these".

May families continue to pass on the gift of faith of their forefathers to their children and grand-children so as to enrich their spiritual journey through life.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone involved in the Church throughout the Diocese. Without your help it would not be possible to carry out all the various activities which promote faith for our children.

+Alan McCracken SFS

Who are the Safeguarding Team?

Training Co-ordinator: Margaret Northage

Tel: 074 9125669

E-mail: cporaphoediocese@eircom.net

Safeguarding Trainers :

Margaret Northage Sr. Mary O'Donovan
Barry Ramsay John Kennedy

Designated Liaison Persons :

Kathleen Gallagher (Mobile: 086 218 3011)
Paddy Mc Daid (Mobile: 086 218 3022)

Garda Vetting Liaison Person:

Margaret Northage

Safeguarding Committee :

Brid Carlin (Chair), Margaret Northage (Secretary),
Ciaran McGuire, Cathal Quinn, Barry Ramsay, John
Kennedy, Sr. Mary O'Donovan, Fr. Gerard
Cunningham.

What needs to be in place in every parish?

- Each parish has at least 2 Safeguarding Reps who assist with promoting safeguarding in their parish,
- Safeguarding posters and information leaflets are displayed,
- A sign-in book is retained in every sacristy,
- Consent Forms are in place for all young people involved in church activities,
- All young people have access to safeguarding information and their parents are informed about safeguarding policy,
- All parishes are required to keep attendance records at youth events,
- All volunteers and staff undergo Garda Vetting and complete an application form agreeing to abide by the Safeguarding Policy,
- Safeguarding information and training is provided to all volunteers,
- A Parish Self Audit is carried out annually.

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016, which came into effect on 29 April 2016, makes it **mandatory** for people working with *Children or Adults at Risk* to be vetted by the Garda Síochána National Vetting Bureau.



All diocesan personnel, clergy, paid workers and volunteers who have regular access to *Children or Adults at Risk* **must undergo** Garda Vetting. ***This is the law.***

All vetting applications are now carried out on-line.

Please see: www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms.

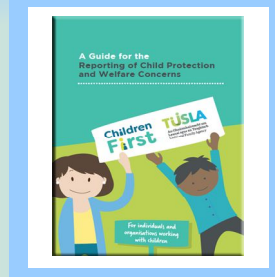
Retrospective Vetting:

Section 21 of the National Vetting Bureau Act above places a legislative requirement on schools and parishes to conduct vetting in respect of employees who were in employment prior to the 29th April 2016, and who have not been previously subject to a vetting application by that organisation. The deadline date has been extended from 31st December 2017 to **30th April 2018**.

Re-Vetting is recommended at least every five years.

Children First Act 2015

Two very important sections of the 2015 Act have important implications for Child Safeguarding work in the Church. On 11th December 2017 the provision relating to **Mandatory Reporting** became **law** in the Republic of Ireland. Secondly all organisations who have ministry with children are required to prepare their own **Child Safeguarding Statement**.



Within a Church context a mandated person is a member of clergy, a pastoral care worker, or someone involved in child safeguarding.

Mandated persons have two main legal obligations under the Act. These are:

1. To report to Tusla harm to children that is above the defined threshold; and
2. If requested, to assist Tusla in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report.

What to do if you have a concern.

If you have a suspicion or concern that a child is at risk of abuse, you must act on it immediately by reporting the matter to the Designated Liaison Person.

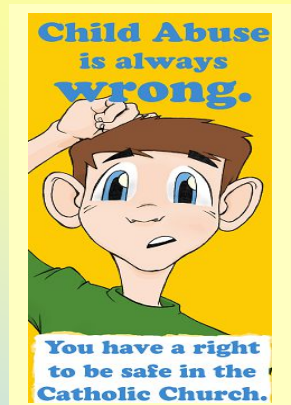
The DLP is the person/s appointed by the Bishop to receive child safeguarding concerns and to pass this information on to the Bishop/Statutory Authorities and the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church.

You always have the option of going straight to the Statutory Authorities (Gardaí and Tusla).

Contact Details:

DLP: Kathleen Gallagher (086 218 3011) or Paddy Mc Daid (086 218 3022)

Gardaí: 074 91 67100 **Tusla:** 074 9123672/9104714



If you would like Safeguarding Training in your parish, please contact:

Margaret on: 074 91 25669 or

email: cporaphoediocese@eircom.net.

The Diocese of Raphoe values your feedback. All feedback is greatly appreciated and evaluated in our regular review of our Safeguarding Policy documents.

"Tell us what you think!"



AND Finally...

Volunteering on behalf of the Catholic Church in a Parish is so rewarding for all involved and I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who do so in a committed manner, having regard for the requirements of Safeguarding. As we on the Committee analyse the Parish Audits returned each Spring, it is indeed heartening to see the increased participation of Children and Young People in Church and faith related activities in our Diocese over the past number of years. We on the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee are here to support you in your work so please do call on us if you need to.

May God bless us all as we continue in the work of maintaining safe environments for everyone in our Parishes.

Brid Carlin

Brid Carlin
Chair

