



Raphoe Diocesan Safeguarding Committee  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2022**

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN OFFICE  
DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE  
MONASTERY AVENUE  
LETTERKENNY  
CO. DONEGAL  
F92 HP66

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## FOREWORD ■ BISHOP ALAN MC GUCKIAN, SJ.



I am delighted to present to you the Annual Safeguarding Children Report for 2019 to 2022. As the Bishop of our diocese, it is my responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of every child and vulnerable adult who participate in church ministry. This report is a testament to our commitment to protecting children and vulnerable adults and to the relentless work of our Safeguarding Team.

The safety of children is not only a legal obligation but also a moral imperative. It is a duty we take very seriously, and we continuously strive to create an environment where the diocese welcomes and protects all children and vulnerable adults. Our safeguarding policies and procedures are continuously under review to ensure we provide the best possible guidance for all members of our diocese to follow.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the individuals involved in safeguarding within our diocese. Joe Conroy stood down as committee member in 2020 and I would like to acknowledge my appreciation for his contribution to safeguarding. Thankfully a new member came on board, and I would like to thank Alfie McHale for taking up this role and giving of his time and background knowledge as a former member of an Garda Síochána. Patricia Slevin joined our Safeguarding Trainers Team in 2022 having completed training in Maynooth and thereafter receiving accreditation by the National Board for Safeguarding Children.

To our Chair, Brid Carlin and all our committee members, I truly appreciate your contribution to this work. I would like to thank our trainers, Margaret Northage, Barry Ramsay and Patricia Slevin for bringing the message of safeguarding to our parishes throughout the diocese through the delivery of training sessions where there is good interaction and discussions with participants on all safeguarding matters. Our trainers provide the knowledge and confidence to report abuse.

Each of our parishes has Safeguarding Representatives whose role is to assist their Parish Priest in promoting best practice in safeguarding and I wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution our Parish Reps make. By working together and taking individual responsibility we can ensure that children and vulnerable adults are kept safe.

Transparency is important in the work we do and in 2022 I invited the National Board to conduct a Review on safeguarding within the diocese covering the period from August 2010 to date. This involved conversations with those involved in safeguarding on the ground and included interviews with a Complainant (victim of clerical abuse), representative of an Garda Síochána, Tusla, Safeguarding Committee, Clergy, Sacristans, Youth Leaders, Lourdes Pilgrimage Secretary and Rainbows Co-ordinator. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Review. Margaret Northage had a lead role in the Review ensuring that the two Independent Reviewers had access to all historical case records,

audits, training records and policies and procedures. The initial feedback from the Reviewers is that they are confident that the diocese is fully meeting with the standards of the National Board. When completed, the full Review Report will be published on the National Board's website and the diocesan website.

In conclusion, let us remember that safeguarding children is not a task we complete once a year by completing a Parish Self-Audit or attending training but a continuous journey. It is our duty as a diocese to ensure that every child feels safe and valued within our midst. I invite you to read this annual report carefully and to engage in the ongoing work around safeguarding. Together, let us build a future where the well-being of our children and vulnerable adults is paramount.

May God bless and guide us in our commitment to protecting all those entrusted to our care.

Yours faithfully,

Bail ó DÍA ar an obair agus ar gach aon dune atá páirteach inti.

*+ Alan McGuckian SJ.*

+ Alan McGuckian, SJ., Bishop of Raphoe



## CHAIR'S ADDRESS - BRÍD CARLIN



This Report outlines the work of the Raphoe Diocesan Safeguarding Committee from 2019 to end of 2022 and I ask that it is shared throughout Parishes.

The practice of and participation in faith-based activities was severely impacted by Covid 19 but many Parishes are now re-engaging actively with the flock. 'Forward Together' - the Diocesan Pastoral Plan - will provide further opportunities for Parishes to rebuild their faith community. The Safeguarding Committee, and I as Chair, are wholly heartened by the uptake in 2023 of training and requests for information from Parishes in relation to practices and procedures and look forward to supporting that work going forward.

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of the members of Safeguarding Committee and Bishop Alan who give of their time and share openly their advice and opinions. We are indeed fortunate to have a group with varying fields of expertise, and who are conscientious in their deliberations.

In particular, I wish to thank Margaret Northage, Director of Safeguarding, who is in many ways the face and voice of Safeguarding in the Diocese. Her work is immeasurable.

In conclusion, I echo the words of Bishop Alan in his foreword that Safeguarding is a continuous journey and not just an annual activity.

## INTRODUCING OUR COMMITTEE –

**Bríd Carlin - Chair**



My name is Bríd Devenney (Carlin) and I live in Ballybofey. I have been Chair of the Safeguarding Committee since 2016. I am a retired Primary School Teacher and I am involved occasionally with Church Music in both St Mary's, Stranorlar and in my home town of Castlefinn.

**Ciarán McGuire  
(Vice-Chair)**



Ciaran Maguire working presently as Homeless Service Manager. I work with Homeless families and vulnerable adults. I have been on the Board of Donegal Youth Service for the past forty years working with our Youth Clubs and delivering Youth Projects all over the county. In the past I have coached soccer in Bonagee and held the post of Children's Safety Officer. I am currently coaching Gaelic football in St. Eunans and have in this role worked in a number of our local schools. I am on the Board of Prosocial Ireland and deliver Road Safety Courses in our Schools and in our Youth Prisons. In all my roles I have at heart a great interest in keeping our young people safe. So when I was asked to join the Raphoe Diocesan Safeguarding Committee, I said yes.

**Margaret Northage  
(Secretary)**



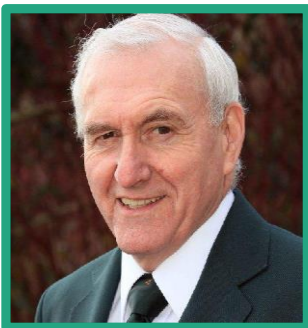
I am a native of Downings, the mother of 2 boys with a background in administration and finance. In November 2002, I returned from London and worked for 8 years in a cross-border peace-building project. The project provided a safe place where victims of the conflict could tell their story, be listened to and begin their journey of healing. This background experience would later enhance my role as DLP for the diocese.

**Fr. Gerard Cunningham**



As a priest of Raphoe Diocese I have the privilege of working with children in many facets and situations. Their openness to faith and their joy in expressing it brings enrichment to the family of faith everywhere. Children's safety and wellbeing in the environment of the Church is paramount, as we try to heed Jesus' own words, 'Let the children come to me.... for it is to them that the Kingdom of God belongs'.

**Barry Ramsay  
(Trainer)**



Barry is a former Principal Social Worker for childcare in Donegal. He has been a trainer for the Protection of Children in the Catholic Church since 2016. Prior to this he was a Senior Psychiatric Social Worker. He is a native of Letterkenny, married to Eilish. They have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. He studied at Trinity College Dublin, Birmingham and Newcastle University in England. He also lectured in Addiction Studies at the University of Ulster. He is a keen fly fisher, golfer and hill walker.

**Alfie Mc Hale**



Alfie is a retired member of An Garda Síochána completing over 39 years in the force. He spent over 20 years specialising in all types of criminal investigations in Co Donegal. He believes that the experience gained over these years will be of benefit to Raphoe Diocesan Safeguarding Committee. He is married to Mary and they have four grown up children.

**Patricia Slevin**  
**(Trainer)**



Patricia joined the Safeguarding Committee in 2019. She became an accredited trainer for the Diocese in 2022. She spent most of her teaching career working in Dublin where she was principal of an inner-city boys primary school. She worked for 11 years as Director of Teaching Practice in Marino Institute of Education. Patricia completed her Doctorate in Educational Disadvantage in Trinity College Dublin in 2012. She was awarded a fellowship to the University of Notre Dame, Indiana in 2014 where she worked with the Centre for Educational Studies. Patricia became Principal of Woodland NS in Letterkenny in 2017.

**Cathal Quinn**



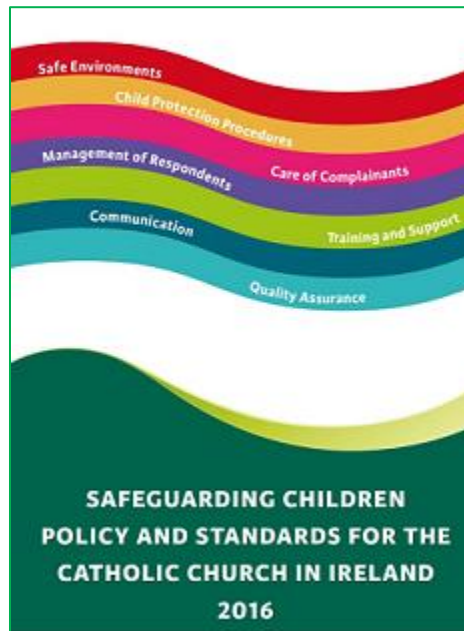
Cathal Quinn has been a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee since 2012. He is actively involved in his local parish and was a member of the team that originally set up the children's liturgy in St Columba's Church, Glenswilly in 2000, which successfully ran for a number of years with strong support from and participation of both parents and children. Cathal is deeply committed to promoting and preserving the safe involvement of children in the Church and brings legal expertise to the committee and its considerations.



# STANDARD 1 - NEWS & UPDATES

## Creating & Maintaining Safe Environments - Practice Issues

### Safeguarding Children, Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland (2016) - REVISION



The National Board has a responsibility to advise the Catholic Church in Ireland on child safeguarding policy and practice. Since its foundation, the National Board has developed two iterations of a child safeguarding policy, the most recent in 2016. Since that time, there have been significant changes in canon law, some changes in civil law, and much increased awareness about effective practice in the area of child safeguarding, particularly within a faith-based setting.

In January 2022, the National Board determined that a further review of policy was now necessary, and a process of reading, research, and consultation began. The Steering Group has considered the core elements of the revised policy as:

- A statement of commitment to safeguarding children by all members who minister and engage in children's ministry.
- Bearing in mind the additional responsibilities of Church leaders, key governance requirements.
- Practices that promote good child safeguarding, including systems to create a safe environment and embed a culture of safeguarding, as well as training and communication.
- An approach to responding to allegations and concerns that recognise legislative requirements, as well as the pastoral care needs of complainants and their families, and the rights of respondents to a fair inquiry process.

Below is the timeline of next stage of the revision process:

- Current draft being reviewed by Steering Group members who will respond to the National Board by 20th March 2023
- National Board will review, amend and recirculate to Steering Group by 17th April 2023
- Final text to be agreed and submitted to National Board in April.
- Draft to be submitted to IEC and AMRI by end May/June 2023
- Further consultation if approved by IEC and AMRI – June, July and August 2023
- Consideration of further amendments – September 2023.

When the final Policy & Standards document is produced, copies will be made available to all parishes, training will be updated accordingly and the Safeguarding Committee will monitor the Standards against the indicators to ensure the diocese is implementing any new changes.

## GARDA VETTING

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 provide a statutory basis for mandatory vetting of persons whose work brings them into regular contact with children and/or vulnerable adults. The re-vetting period has changed from 5 to 3 years in line with the guidance of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church.

To assist parishes in deciding who meets the criteria for garda vetting, the Safeguarding Committee has produced a matrix to assist you, please see - <https://www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms-policies>

### Who Needs Garda Vetting?

Any person who is carrying out work or activity, a necessary and regular part of which consists mainly of the person having access to, or contact with, children or vulnerable adults and includes full-time workers, part-time workers and volunteers.

Re-vetting should be conducted every 3 years.

**The following is a list of those who require vetting:**

- Clergy, (Bishops, Priests & Deacons),
- Parish Religious Sisters – ministering in the parish
- Sacristans
- Children’s Catechist – preparation of children for the Sacraments:
  - First Holy Communion – Children of the Eucharist / Do This In Memory of Me
  - Confirmation – You Shall be my Witness
  - Christmas and Easter Events
- Parish Pastoral Workers – ministering to children
- Parish Safeguarding Representatives
- Altar Server Leaders
- Children & Youth Choir Leaders
- Children’s Liturgy Leaders
- Parish Youth Club Leaders
- Visitation Team Members – visiting the sick , Baptismal Teams, Legion of Mary
- Parish Pilgrimage Leaders e.g. Lourdes Pilgrimage, Knock Pilgrimage
- Parish Centre Staff & Volunteer who provide supervision of children
- Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist – bringing communion to those who are unable to attend mass.
- Diocesan DLP/Safeguarding Co-ordinator
- All other roles that bring a person into direct contact with children or vulnerable adults through his/her ministry, work or activity in the Parish.



### ***Roles that do not require vetting:***

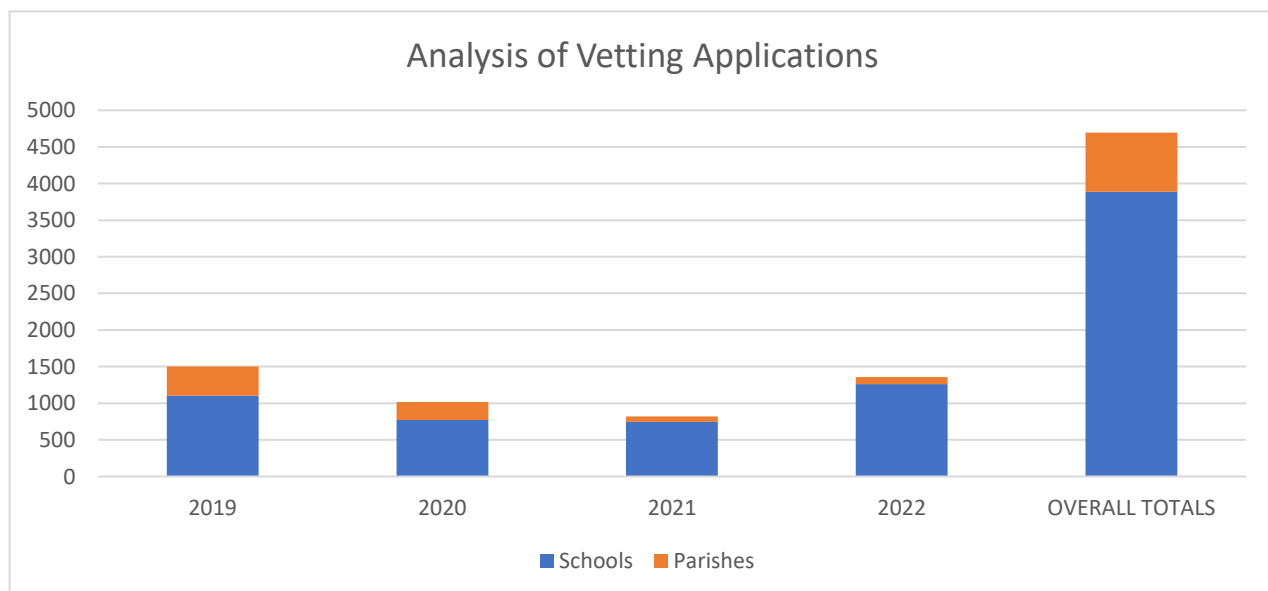
If the involvement in work or activity with children or vulnerable persons is merely incidental, then vetting is not required.

- Parish Secretaries
- Collectors
- Car park attendants
- Readers of the Word *present in the main body of Church*
- Eucharistic Ministers – *present in the main body of Church*

If you are unsure about any role requiring vetting, please contact:  
**The Vetting Liaison Person, Margaret Northage on 074 91 25669**

### **Garda Vetting Analysis - Online Vetting Portal (2019 to Dec 2022)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Schools</b>	<b>Parishes</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comment</b>
2019	1106	397	1503	
2020	773	245	1018	
2021	747	71	818	Covid
2022	1263	95	1358	Covid
<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>	<b>3889</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>4697</b>	



It is worth noting that the reason for higher number of vetting applications for schools is due to the large population of schools in the diocese which are under the patronage of Bishop McGuckian.

## New Guidance on Whistleblowing



In October 2020, the National Board produced new guidance on Whistleblowing, please see: [www.safeguarding.ie/images/Pdfs/Standards/Standard%201.pdf](http://www.safeguarding.ie/images/Pdfs/Standards/Standard%201.pdf), go to Pg 98-102.

### 1.6A Guidance on Whistleblowing

Allegations, suspicions, knowledge and concerns about the abuse of a child which meet the threshold must be reported to statutory authorities and Church authority.

This guidance relates to concerns about malpractice in child safeguarding.

All staff and volunteers ministering or volunteering within the Catholic Church in Ireland have an individual responsibility to bring matters of concern about any dereliction of duty to safeguard children, to the attention of the appropriate person within the Church or statutory authorities. This could be the parish priest, religious superior, bishop, provincial and/or relevant agency managers. Although this can be difficult to do, it is particularly important where the welfare of children may be at risk.

You may be the first to recognise that something is wrong, but you may not feel able to express your concerns out of a feeling that this would be disloyal to colleagues, or you may fear harassment or victimisation. These feelings, however natural, must never result in a child or young person continuing to be unnecessarily at risk.

Children need an advocate to safeguard their welfare - Don't think, 'what if I'm wrong?' Think, 'what if I'm right!'

### What is whistleblowing?

Whistleblowing can be defined as 'raising concerns about wrong-doing or misconduct within an organisation or within an independent structure associated with it'. It differs from raising concerns about allegations of abuse.

The concern could relate to:

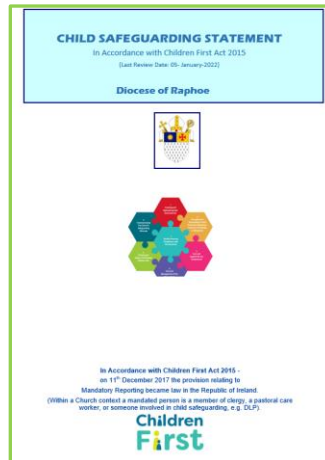
- a breach of the Church Body's child safeguarding procedures
- practice which falls below the standards set out in "Safeguarding Children, Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016"
- a breach of the law
- failure to comply with legal obligations
- a possible miscarriage of justice

- a Health & Safety risk
- misuse of public money
- corruption or unethical conduct
- deliberate concealment of any of these matters

Those in ministry within the Church have certain common law confidentiality obligations to their Church authority. However, in a limited set of circumstances, whistleblowing may override these obligations if a person has information which they believe will not be addressed properly within the Church.



## Child Safeguarding Statement (CSS)



### What is a CSS?

It is a Child Safeguarding Statement developed in line with requirements under the **Children First Act 2015**, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

Every organisation working with children/young people must have their own CSS along with a Risk Assessment ([www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children](http://www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children) go to forms - Template 1.8A) documenting all possible risk to children and what preventions who have in place to reduce any risk to children.

The CSS must include a Mandated Persons list who are people who have contact with children and/or families and who, because of their qualifications, training and/or employment role, are in a key position to help protect children from harm. ***Within a Church context a mandated person is a member of clergy and a pastoral care worker, or someone involved in child safeguarding i.e. Designated Liaison Person.***

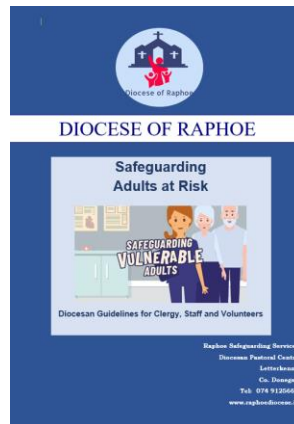
Mandated persons have two main legal obligations under the Children First Act 2015. These are:

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

***It must be understood that the Child Safeguarding Statement does not replace the Child Safeguarding Policy, but it sits alongside it and should reference the relevant sections of the policy.***

The Tusla Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit (CSSCU) is a dedicated Tusla department set up solely to manage the requirement for providers to have a Child Safeguarding Statement in place. The unit is also responsible for operating and maintaining the Register of Non-Compliance under section 13 of the Children First Act 2015. A CSS must be reassessed every 2 years for compliance. The diocesan CSS was submitted to this unit in early 2022 and is due for renewal in January 2024. Copies of the Children First Safeguarding Statement are available at: [www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/form](http://www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/form)

## Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults/Adults at Risk



In summer 2021, the National Board submitted a proposal to develop a vulnerable adult's policy to the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Association of Missionary and Religious Leaders of Ireland (AMRI), the proposal was approved in September 2021 with an agreed deadline date of September 2022.

An extensive consultation process followed with Listening Meetings conducted in the Armagh, Dublin, Cashel and Tuam Ecclesiastical Areas. In addition to these meetings, consultation also took place with a wide range of other bodies involved in safeguarding e.g. Allianz, Bishops' Conference Scotland, International Union of Superior Generals, Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, Safeguarding Ireland, DoH, HSE, One in Four, SVDP, Women's Aid and Men's Aid.

On the 21st of December 2021, representatives of AMRI and the IEC met with the National Board to clarify the scope of the proposed piece of work. The sponsoring bodies confirmed that what they expected the National Board to complete by the end of September 2022 was the following four things:

- Objective A- A paper examining existing strengths of safeguarding policy and practice in relation to vulnerable adults in the Church in Ireland and areas which require development.
- Objective B- A template best practice safeguarding adults' policy- to assist dioceses and orders to critique or develop policies including limited guidance.
- Objective C- A recommendation as to what structures will assist a consistent implementation of such policy at local level including the support mechanisms necessary in both guidance and training programmes.
- Objective D- A paper outlining the various issues that have been raised through the consultation and listening processes which need to be addressed but fall outside the scope of this project.

A draft vulnerable adults' policy was presented at the Bishops' Conference in January 2023.



## Safeguarding Children - Parish Packs

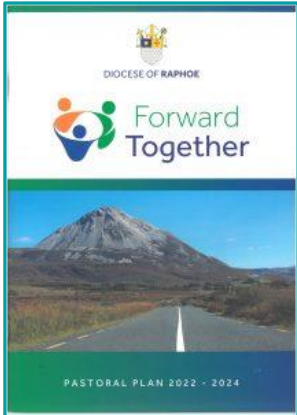
Feedback from Parish Self-Audits and Training Sessions showed a demand for a *Handbook* containing all the relevant information required at parish level. Some Parish Reps expressed difficulty in navigating the website and not knowing where to find information.

Taking this on board, the Director of Safeguarding set about putting together a complete pack for parishes currently engaging with children which contains the items listed below. These packs have been distributed at recent training sessions and can be collected from the Safeguarding Office on request.

<b>1. POLICIES</b>
Policy Document of the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016
Policy Statement A4 Copy (available in A3 size in English, Irish & Polish)
Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with Children First Act 2015
Reporting Forms Tusla– Current & Retrospective
Reporting Form – National Board for Safeguarding Children
Flowchart – How to Report a Concern
Risk Assessment – Sample
Complaints Procedure
Anti-Bullying Policy
Whistle-Blowing Policy
<b>2. RECRUITMENT – Guidance &amp; Forms</b>
Recruitment Forms – complete set (includes application form, references, declaration, confidentiality agreement & garda vetting NVB1 form)
<b>3. GARDA VETTING (remember re-vetting every 3 years)</b>
How needs Vetting?
Garda Vetting – NVB 1 Form for Parishes
Garda Vetting – NVB 1 Form for Schools
Child Consent – NVB 3 Form
List of Acceptable ID
<b>4. SPECIFIC ROLES</b>
Safeguarding Personnel
Safeguarding Representative
Minister of the Eucharist to the Housebound
<b>5. STORAGE &amp; RETENTION OF RECORDS/GDPR</b>
Type of Record – Where to Store – Template/Guidance
Data Protection Handbook for Parishes
<b>6. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR / CONDUCT</b>
Code of Behaviour for Adults
Code of Conduct for Young People & Information for Parents

Breaches of Codes of Behaviour for Children & Adults - Guidance
Boundary Violation - Guidance
<b>7. WORKING SAFELY WITH CHILDREN</b>
Child & Guardian Joint Consent Form
Supervision Ratios
Guidance on Trips Away with Young People
Children with Specific Needs
One-to-One Contact with Children & Young People
Health & Safety
Hazard Assessment Form
Dealing with Accidents
Attendance Register for Large Groups
Attendance Register for Sacristy or Sacristy Sign-in Book
<b>8. John Paul 11 Awards - Forms</b>
Guidance and associated forms
<b>9. HIRING OF CHURCH PROPERTY</b>
External Groups who Use Church Property – guidance & forms
Guidance on Church Property and Hire for Private Functions
<b>10. TECHNOLOGY – SAFE USE - GUIDANCE</b>
Use of Technology Guidance
Media Permission Form,
Use of Internet,
Use of Texting & Email
Use of Photography,
Use of CCTV & Webcams
Guidance on using Zoom
<b>Posters</b>
Policy Statement – English (A3 Posters available in English / Irish / Polish)
Altar Server Poster
Children’s Choir Poster
Children’s Liturgy Poster
Celebret Notice for Sacristy
Towards Healing – Poster
Towards Peace – Leaflet
Safeguarding Children & Young People - Leaflet
Information for Parents + Code of Conduct for Young People - Leaflet

## Forward Together - Pastoral Plan 2022 - 2024



### Pastoral Plan – Role in promoting faith amongst our children.

On Thursday 31st March at 7pm Mass in the Cathedral of St. Eunan and St Columba Bishop Alan McGuckian launched Forward Together/Ar Aghaidh le Chéile, the new Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Raphoe for the years 2022 – 2024.

The goal of this plan is to bring together as a community, faith, hope and charity in our parishes and in our diocese.

*“Let us go forward together with trust in God. We also look back and learn from our mistakes. Our experience as a community in recent years has taught us that safeguarding children and vulnerable persons must be the forefront of our thinking in every one of the initiatives we undertake”.*

Bishop Alan McGuckian.

#### Action Point F1:

The diocese will develop a programme of Children’s Catechetics and Sacramental Preparation co-ordinated by a Diocesan Developmental Worker.

**What this is:** *The children are both the present and the future of our Church. Our parishes will promote and nurture the faith of our children through vibrant formation, both in terms of catechesis and sacramental formation, building on the excellent work already undertaken at parish, school and home level.*

#### Action Point F2:

The diocese will set up a support network for post-primary RE teachers.

**What is this:** *The Diocese recognises the vital work our teachers do. In recognition of the challenges faced by post-primary RE teachers and chaplains, we will set up a network of support for these teachers to sustain them and to further enliven their work and the impact it has on our children. Days of retreat, reflection and information will be held throughout the school year. There will also be a mechanism for sharing resources that are current and fresh.*

#### Action Point F3:

The diocese will continue to support Primary School teachers through the diocesan Catholic Primary Schools Managers Association group.

**What is this:** The Diocese of Raphoe recognises the essential work that primary teachers do in our schools. It is important that the Diocese continues to offer support and training to all schools, especially in the area of religious education. It is equally important that school principals feel supported in the work they undertake on behalf of our children, their families and parishes.

## STANDARD 5 – TRAINING.

DATE	LOCATION/GROUP/TRAINERS	NO. OF CLERGY/ RELIGIOUS	NO. OF LAY PEOPLE
	<b>2019</b>		
16/01/2019 1 <sup>st</sup> Group	Conference Room, St. Eunan's Cathedral Requested by Monsg. Kevin Gillespie, all staff, clergy and volunteers to attend updated training. Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Training. Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	1	42
22/01/2019 2 <sup>nd</sup> Group	Conference Room, Diocesan Pastoral Centre Requested by Monsg. Kevin Gillespie, all staff, clergy and volunteers to attend updated training. Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Training. Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	3	19
21/05/2019	St. Mary's Parish Hall, Ardara At the request of Fr. Austin Lavery, PP. Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Training. Trainer: Margaret Northage	6	7
19/06/2019 am	Conference Room, Diocesan Pastoral Centre Requested by NET Ministries Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Training. Trainer: Margaret Northage	0	13
19/06/2019 pm	Diocesan Pastoral Centre Information Session - Visiting Priest & Parish Priest Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Training. Trainer: Margaret Northage	2	0
22/10/2019	Diocesan Pastoral Centre Refresher Session Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	0	7
05/11/2019	St. Peter's Parish Hall, Mountcharles Requested by Fr. James Sweeney, PP. Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Training Trainer: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	3	19
11/11/2019	Mulroy Woods Hotel, Milford. Requested by Fr. Stephen Gorman, CC Lourdes Volunteers & Staff Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Training Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	4	55
13/11/2019	Diocesan Pastoral Centre Information Session Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Training. Trainer: Margaret Northage	0	5
18/11/2019	St. Mary's Parish Hall, Ardara Requested by Fr. Austin Lavery, PP. Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Training Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	5	10

DATE	LOCATION/GROUP/TRAINERS	NO. OF CLERGY/ RELIGIOUS	NO. OF LAY PEOPLE
<b>2020</b>			
23/01/2020	St. Baithin's National School, St. Johnston Requested by Fr. Dan Carr, PP & Margaret Mc Nulty, LSR Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adult Training Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	1	16
23/01/2020	Radisson Hotel, Letterkenny Requested by Bishop McGuckian for diocesan clergy. Mandated Persons Session Trainer: Margaret Northage	40	0
06/02/2020	Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny Young Leaders Session. Trainer: Margaret Northage	0	2
13/02/2020	Parish Hall, Newtowncunningham Requested by Fr. Kieran Harkin, PP. Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Training Trainers: Margaret Northage & Barry Ramsay	1	16
06/03/2020	Diocesan Pastoral Centre Requested by NET Ministries Mandated Persons Session Trainer: Margaret Northage	0	8
<b>2021 impacted by Covid19</b>			
02/06/2021	Diocesan Pastoral Centre Information Session - Children of the Eucharist Safeguarding Children Training Trainer: Margaret Northage	0	5
03/11/2020	Diocesan Pastoral Centre Information Session - Children of the Eucharist + Divine Mercy Centre Safeguarding Children Training Trainer: Margaret Northage	5	3
<b>2022</b>			
22/01/2022	Station House Hotel Requested by Liam Cannon, Counselling Service Safeguarding Children Training - Trainer: Margaret Northage		10
27/08/2022	Diocesan Pastoral Centre - Assessment of Trainers Requested by NET Ministries Full-day training session Trainers: Margaret Northage & Patricia Slevin Tutor: Eleanor Kelly, National Board for Safeguarding		24



Our Diocesan Trainers, Margaret Northage & Patricia Slevin hosted Annual Safeguarding Training for the NET Ministries Team on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022. During this training session, both Trainers underwent assessment by Eleanor Kelly, Tutor with the National Board for Safeguarding.

It was great to see so many young people preparing to head across Ireland to work in parishes and schools to share the Gospel message with other young people.

Some feedback comments:

Really impressed with the engagement of the presentation.

Loved the videos + workshop element.

Great Job - I feel very informed.

Margaret N & Patricia S rocked the house!

You were clear and straightforward.

Well done the best safeguarding I have attended!.

The training was very comprehensive, helpful to have different methods of training.

## STANDARD 6– COMMUNICATION

### Safeguarding Plan 2022 - 2025

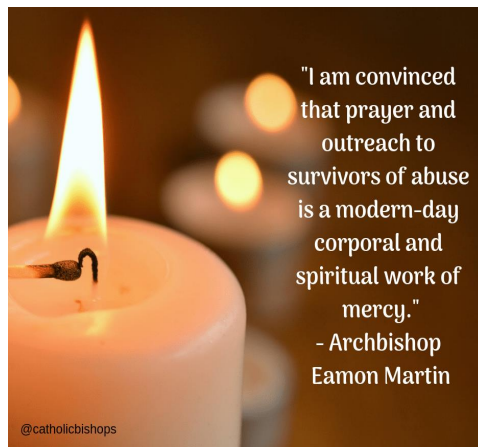
The Committee has completed a comprehensive Safeguarding Plan 2022-2025 which underpins the continued work in safeguarding in the diocese. Currently they are working on a Communications Plan which will be signed off on shortly. As part of the Communication Plan regular Newsletters will be emailed to parishes and posted on the diocesan website alongside this Annual Report.

Newsletters produced:

- Spring 2019 Newsletter
- Spring 2020 Newsletter
- Spring 2021 Newsletter
- Autumn 2022 Newsletter

Most recent Newsletter – Autumn 2022 is available at [www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms-policies](http://www.raphoediocese.ie/safeguarding-children/forms-policies).

### Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse



Pope Francis has dedicated an annual “Worldwide Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse”. This falls on the First Friday in Lent and the day that the Irish Bishops’ Conference has chosen to mark the annual day of prayer.

Parishes are notified of this mass through the Diocesan Office and are reminded that it is an opportunity in light of the history of abuse within this Diocese, to acknowledge the suffering and provide hope of healing for the many victims and survivors. Parishes are provided with liturgical resources along with details of Towards Peace and Towards Healing to add to their parish website/Facebook.

# STANDARD 7– Implementing and Monitoring

## Parish Self Audits 2019 - 2022

Parish Self Audits are carried out on an annual basis. The format of the Audit form is based on the Seven Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland together with National Guidelines. The completion of the Audit is a requirement of the National Board for all parishes throughout Ireland, North and South. The self-audit tool is a way of measuring how close your parish is to meeting the Seven Standards for keeping children safe.

Audit Returns for this period:

YEAR	NUMBERS RETURNED	%
2019	16	48%
2020	National Board instructed cancellation due to the pandemic.	0%
2021	26	79%
2022	22	73%

We wish to thank you all, our clergy and parish representative for your help and cooperation in implementing good practice in your parish. If you require any assistance or clarification in completing your Parish Audit, please contact the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Letterkenny on 074 91 25669.

If you had no ministry with children/young people during 2022, please send “nil return” by advising the Safeguarding Office via email to Margaret at [safeguarding@raphoediocese.ie](mailto:safeguarding@raphoediocese.ie) – “no ministry in our parish during 2022”.

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## REVIEW (2016 Standards) 2010 - 2022

Bishop Alan invited the National Board to conduct a Review of safeguarding within the diocese in September 2022. This Review was scheduled to take place in 2019 but was postponed due to the pandemic.

The Diocese of Raphoe was previously reviewed in August 2010 under the Safeguarding Children - Standards and Guidance for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2008. The report of the first Review can be found on the National Board's website [www.safeguarding.ie/publications](http://www.safeguarding.ie/publications).

This 2023 Review is an opportunity for the National Board to confirm that recommendations from the previous Review (2010) were implemented. The Reviewers found all recommendations were fully implemented.

The current Review examined the following areas of safeguarding:

Standard 1: Creating and Maintaining Safe Environments

Standard 2: Procedures for Responding to Child Protection Suspicions, Concerns, Knowledge or Allegations

Standard 3: Care and Support for the Complainant

Standard 4: Care and Management of the Respondent

Standard 5: Training and Support for Keeping Children Safe

Standard 6: Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message

Standard 7: Quality Assuring Compliance with the Standards:

The Review Report will go through several layers of scrutiny by both the National Board and legal experts and will be published on the National Board's website early in 2023.

The following people participated in the Review, and we wish to thank you sincerely:

Margaret Northage, Director of Safeguarding,

Monsg. Kevin Gillespie, Representing St. Eunan's Cathedral Safeguarding Team,

Elizabeth & Hugh McCauley (Sacristans in Cathedral),

Mary Ellen, Secretary, St. Eunan's Cathedral,

Fr. Michael Mc Keever, VG, Diocesan Administrator.

Fr. Ciaran Harkin, PP, Church of the Irish Martyrs,

Siobhan O'Connell, Sacristan Church of the Irish Martyrs,

Member of an Garda Síochána,

Team Leader, Tusla,

Siobhan Hannigan, Children of the Eucharist,

AnnMarie Dunne, Rainbows Co-ordinator.

Connor Duncan, JP II Pilot & Youth Ministry,

Mary Friel, Counselling Co-ordinator,

Teallia Gorman, DLP, NET Ministries,

Brenda Barrett, Lourdes Office Secretary

Divine Mercy Centre, Little Rays, Sr. Bernedatta & Team  
Safeguarding Trainers, Barry Ramsay & Patricia Slevin.  
Safeguarding Chair and Committee  
and finally our sincere thanks to the two Reviewers, David Douglas & Sandra Claxton.



**Safeguarding Committee:**

Bríd Carlin, *Chairperson*

Ciaran Maguire, *Vice Chair*

Margaret Northage, *Secretary*

Barry Ramsay

Patricia Slevin

Fr. Gerard Cunningham

Cathal Quinn

Ciaran Maguire

Alfie McHale

**Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers:**

Margaret Northage

Barry Ramsay

Patricia Slevin

**Diocesan Designated Person:**

Margaret Northage: 086 218 3011

**Garda Vetting Liaison Person & Clerk:**

Margaret Northage & Bridget Conway

**Diocesan Support Persons:**

Moya Campbell, 074 9735309

Jim Mc Glynn, 086 722 5153

**Agencies offering advice and support:****National Board for Safeguarding Children**

New House,

Saint Patrick's College,

Maynooth,

Co.Kildare. Phone no: 01 505 3124

Fax: 01 505 3026

Website: [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie)

**Childline** 1800 666666 [www.childline.ie](http://www.childline.ie)

Provides a 24-hour listening service for children.

**Towards Healing** - 1800303416

[www.towardshealing.ie](http://www.towardshealing.ie)

Provides telephone counselling and psychotherapy referral service for people who have been abused by priests or religious.

**Towards Peace** [www.towardspeace.ie](http://www.towardspeace.ie). Offers spiritual support and guidance to survivors of abuse by Church personnel.

**National Counselling Service (NCS)**

**1800 235234**

This service is for adults who were abused in childhood and offers confidential face to face counselling.

**Connect** 1800 235235 [www.connectcounselling.ie](http://www.connectcounselling.ie)

This is a free telephone counselling service for any adult who has experienced abuse, trauma or neglect in childhood.

**Samaritans** 1850609090 [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

Child Protection Unit in the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)- [www.childprotection.ie](http://www.childprotection.ie)

**ISPCC** - [www.ispcc.ie](http://www.ispcc.ie)

**Barnardos** - [www.barnardos.ie](http://www.barnardos.ie)

**Rape Crisis Network of Ireland** - [www.rcni.ie](http://www.rcni.ie)

**One in Four** - [www.oneinfour.ie](http://www.oneinfour.ie)

**Tusla:** [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

Tel: 074 91 23672/91 23770

