

Child Safeguarding Policy Statement of St. Michan's Parish, Halston Street

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 well-being, 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 and volunteers) 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.

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

To report allegations or suspicions of child abuse by parish personnel, contact the Director of Safeguarding and Child Protection for the Dublin Diocese:

Andrew Fagan (Director)

Safeguarding & Child Protection Service, Archbishops House, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

Telephone: (01) 8360314 [Fax: (01) 8842599] Email: andrew.fagan@dublindiocese.ie

If you believe a child to be at imminent risk of harm, you should contact An Garda Síochána immediately.

The Parish Child Protection
Representatives are:

Robert & Sandra Abbott
Telephone: (086) 2590031

Capuchin Order Designated Safeguarding
Person is Fr Paul Murphy ofm cap
Telephone: (085) 1080488

Emergency Phone Numbers:

Tusla (Child and Family Agency)

Telephone: (01) 6352854

E-mail: info@tusla.ie

Towards Healing – 1800303416

Bridewell Garda Station

Telephone: (01) 6668200

Friary Policy Statement

Inspired by the Gospel, we the Capuchin Friars of Church Street recognise the dignity and uniqueness of each child and young person.

Like Jesus, who washed the feet of others, we are committed to serving the children and young people of the area, and to making this a community where each one feels welcomed, accepted, valued and cared for.

We undertake to do all in our power to create a safe environment for children and young people and to ensure they are protected from abuse.



Parish Policy Statement

Inspired by the Gospel, we the parishioners of Halston Street and Church Street recognise the dignity and uniqueness of each child and young person.

Like Jesus, who washed the feet of others, we are committed to serving the children and young people of the parish, and to making our parish a community where each one feels welcomed, accepted, valued and cared for.

We undertake to do all in our power to create a safe environment for children and young people and to ensure they are protected from abuse.



Contact Personnel

Dublin Diocese Child Safeguarding Office	(01) 8360314
Dublin Diocese Director of Child Safeguarding Service Mr. Andrew Fagan andrew.fagan@dublindiocese.ie	(01) 8360314
Dublin Diocese Training & Development Co-Ordinator Fr. Paddy Boyle	086 1011415
Garda Vetting Ms. Jo Parada, Human Resources Department Diocesan Offices, Clonliffe College	(01) 8379253
Friary Office Number	(01) 8730599
Parish Office Number	(01) 8730599
Local Garda Síochána	(01) 6668200
Tusla (Child and Family Agency)	(01) 6352854 info@tusla.ie
Capuchin Order Designated Safeguarding Person Fr. Paul Murphy OFM Cap	(01) 8733205
Friary Child Safeguarding Representatives Fr. Bryan Shortall OFM Cap Paddy Pender	(01) 8730599 (01) 8730599
Parish Child Safeguarding Representatives Robert & Sandra Abbott Fr. Bryan Shortall OFM Cap	(086) 2590031 (01) 8730599
Towards Healing	1800 303416
Samaritans Helpline	1850 609090
Childline	1850 666666
Emergency Services	999 or 112

Children's Code of Behaviour

1. Treat all other children with respect, and do not use bullying tactics.
2. Be fair and do not tell lies about others or adults.
3. Abide by the rules set out in the Church Policy on Child Safeguarding.
4. Respect the house of God and promote good behaviour.
5. Do not spread rumours.
6. Do not harm any other children, or Church property.
7. Do not shout or argue in God's house.
8. Children must not keep secrets, especially if they have caused harm.
9. Do not use violence or physical contact with others.
10. Never cheat
11. Talk to the person in charge if you have a problem of any kind.
12. Behave in a manner that coincides with the dignity of the Church of God.
13. Do not use or bring unwarranted or dangerous substances into the Church.
14. The use of mobile phones is prohibited within the Church.

Capuchin Franciscan Order Policy on Keeping Children Safe

The Capuchin Franciscan Order in Ireland, endeavouring to live according to the Gospel where Jesus said, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them" (Mt 19:14) and to warn anyone who would offend against them, that it would be better for such a person to have "a great millstone hung around his neck to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Mt 18:16), recognises the dignity and rights of children, especially their right to develop their relationship with God without interference. Hence, the Order is committed to the safeguarding of children by its members, its employees and voluntary co-workers, in its Churches and houses and in its ministry and wherever the friars are.

Through its signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Board for Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in April 2009, the Capuchin Order in Ireland has adopted the Boards Policies and Procedures Document Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland (2009), and the documents that may be added to it from time to time, as our basic regulation in all matters pertaining to the safeguarding children and, hence, in our child safeguarding practice we will follow the procedures contained in this document. Furthermore, regarding our implementation of the said document, we accept the auditing role of officials of the Boards National Office and pledge our cooperation with them in their work.

Conscious of our grave responsibility to prevent the sexual, physical and emotional abuse of children and their neglect, the Capuchin Order undertakes to report all allegations made to it of such abuse to the civil and Church authorities without delay; we also urge all who disclose allegations of abuse against our members, or anyone else to do likewise. Anyone making an allegation of abuse will be received with respect and listened to, will be informed of actions taken as a result of their disclosure and will have their need for counselling met, if require. Those against whom allegations of abuse have been made will be given every opportunity to vindicate their good name, but, without prejudice, will be asked to stand aside from all ministry, not wear the Capuchin habit or clerical garb, pending the result of the investigations by the civil authorities and any subsequent enquiries by the ecclesiastical authorities. However, should a Garda investigation find that an allegation is false, everything shall be done to restore the good name of the accused. The Order undertakes to cooperate fully with the HSE and An Garda Síochána in assisting those who have abused children to live offence free lives.

Diocesan Policy on Keeping Children Safe

The Archdiocese of Dublin values and encourages the participation of children and young people in parish liturgies and in Diocesan activities in order to enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development. We recognise the dignity and rights of all children and are committed to ensuring their protection from all forms of abuse (as defined in Definitions of Child Abuse). This is a commitment binding on all priests and on those who work in our Diocesan offices and agencies, and in our parishes. It extends to all the many and varied ways that children share in the life of the Church in our Diocese.

The Diocese complies with the requirements of Safeguarding Children and fulfils its obligations and responsibilities for the safeguarding and protection of children by:

- Working in partnership with the civil authorities (the HSE and An Garda Síochána) in all matters that pertain to the protection of children
- Adhering fully to Children First, National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children (1999).

The Archdiocese of Dublin has established the following structures to ensure that this policy is implemented:

1. The Diocesan Advisory Panel on Child Protection
2. The Child Safeguarding and Protection Service (CSPS)
3. Parish Safeguarding Representatives
4. Safeguarding Committee

1. THE DIOCESAN ADVISORY PANEL ON CHILD PROTECTION

The Panel was established in 1996 to provide independent, expert advice to the Archbishop on all aspects of the management of cases of alleged or confirmed child sexual abuse by priests. Its remit was later extended to deal with all forms of child abuse. It is composed of clerical and lay people with a range of expertise in areas relevant to the management of child protection concerns. A majority of Panel members and its Chairperson are required to be lay people. The Director and Child Protection Officer of the CSPS (see below) attend Advisory Panel meetings and CSPS supports the work of the Panel by providing it with reports and secretarial backup.

2. THE DIOCESAN CHILD SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTION SERVICE (CSPS)

The Child Safeguarding and Protection Service (CSPS) of the Archdiocese of Dublin was formally established in 2003 following recommendations from the Advisory Panel for a cohesive and effective support service for those who have experienced clerical child abuse and for their families, and for a proper system for the monitoring, supervision and support of those priests against whom allegations of child sexual abuse have been made and who are out of ministry as a consequence.

The primary objective of the CSPS is the safeguarding and protection from abuse of children and young people who are involved in the life and work of the Catholic Church in the Diocese. Under the direction of, and reporting to, the Archbishop, the service is currently made up of a team of eight people. The team consists of:

- Director
- Child Protection Officer
- Support Coordinator (coordinates the provision of support to victims of abuse and their families)
- Training and Development Coordinator (trains Church personnel in the Diocese and parishes, and provides advice and support on all aspects of safeguarding)
- Priest Delegate (coordinates the relationship between the Diocese and a priest against whom an allegation of abuse has been made)
- Priest Support Coordinator (supervises, supports and monitors priests out of ministry due to child protection concerns)
- Two administrators.



Diocesan Policy on Keeping Children Safe

The service has three distinct functions. These are:

- **Creating and maintaining safe environments for children who are involved in Church activities.** This is done through:
 - providing training and advice to priests and Diocesan personnel in child safeguarding and protection
 - developing materials to assist parishes and Diocesan agencies and organisations in creating safe environments for children
 - carrying out audits of these agencies, organisations and parishes to ensure they are operating in compliance with the requirements set out in Safeguarding Children.

- **Providing pastoral outreach to those affected by abuse.** This is a service provided to those who have experienced abuse and to members of their families. The service provided consists of:
 - facilitating people to make complaints about child abuse
 - accessing counselling for those who need and want it
 - informing them, at every stage, of the steps being taken to address their concerns.

- **Dealing with child protection concerns.**
 - The management of child protection concerns relating to priests of the Diocese
 - The provision of advice and assistance to parishes and Diocesan agencies in their management of child protection concerns
 - Oversight of child protection practices in parishes and Diocesan agencies in order to ensure they are fully compliant with Children First and Safeguarding Children.

3. PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

Each parish has at least one Safeguarding Representative, who is responsible for the promotion of best practice and compliance with the requirements of Safeguarding Children at parish level. Many of our parishes have more than one. Each of these Representatives has been trained for this role. The CSPA maintains contact with the Safeguarding Representatives.



4. SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

The Safeguarding Committee will advise the Archbishop on further developments in, and approaches to, safeguarding and child protection and, in particular, on how to best convey to children and their parents information about the safeguards already in place.