

Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly - Safeguarding Children

Frequently Asked Questions

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- *Is there a need for a Code of Behaviour for Children and should children be involved in drawing up the code?*

Q. 1. Where is Safeguarding Children information available from?

There are a number of resources available to assist all personnel engaged in church activities to safeguard children.

- The Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly Safeguarding Children Policies & Procedures are available in all parishes or on the Archdiocese website at www.

- The Cashel & Emly Archdiocesan Policy Statement and Designated Officer's contact details are available in the porch of all churches in the Archdiocese.
- Safeguarding Children Standards and Guidance document for the Catholic Church in Ireland. This document is available in all parishes or can be viewed or downloaded from the National Office for Safeguarding Children at www.safeguarding.ie
- Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children Department Of Children & Youth Affairs. www.dcyia.ie
- Child Protection & Welfare Practice Handbook. Health Service Executive www.hse.ie

Q.2. Is the Children First Guidance mandatory?

The government has approved legislation which will provide for the Children First Guidance to be statutorily underpinned. This legislation will apply to all organisations working with children including statutory, community and voluntary.

Q. 3. What is child abuse?

There are four recognised forms of child abuse

Neglect, Emotional Abuse, Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse

Q. 4. What are Child Protection Concerns?

Child protection concerns are suspicions or allegations that a child has been abused, is being abused or is at risk of being abused.

Q.5. Can a person report directly to the HSE or an Garda or should the concern be reported directly to the Designated Officer for the Archdiocese?

Yes, a person can report directly to the HSE (Health Service Executive) or An Garda Síochána. The numbers of the local offices are available on the Archdiocese Policy Statement in the church, on the HSE website or the Garda website or from the telephone directory services. If it is considered that a child is at immediate risk and it is not possible to contact the HSE or it is out of hours contact An Garda Síochána. If the concern relates to a priest or to a parish or diocesan worker the concern should be reported to the Designated Officer for the Archdiocese.

Q.6. What is meant by safeguarding?

Safeguarding refers to the measures that are taken to ensure that the church is a safe place for children. These measures are set out in Chapter 3 *Preventing Harm to Children in the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly Safeguarding Children Policies & Procedures*.

Q. 7. What is the role of the Parish Safeguarding Representative?

The principle duties of the parish representatives are to be available to anyone in the parish who may have a child protection concern and advise them to whom it should be reported and also to raise awareness within the parish about good safeguarding practices and to ensure along with the parish clergy that these practices are implemented.

Q. 8. Is Garda vetting required for all persons involved in church practices?

Yes, Garda vetting is a requirement for all Church personnel who have direct access to children.

Q.9. If there are mixed choirs in parishes (Children & Adults) at all times or on occasions e.g. Christmas, Easter should all adults sign declaration form and have garda vetting?

Yes, as for all church activities - if the adults have direct access to children

Q.10. what is the guidance around use of photographs and also photographers taking photographs in the church at church functions?

Ensure that parents/children consent to the use of an image/photograph and that this is recorded. Photographs should not be displaced or used with the children's full names and detailed addresses.

It is not possible to govern what use photographers will make of pictures or images. Photographers are not prohibited from taking photographs at present in churches.

Q. 11. With regard to use of parish hall – should users sign the church policy or use their own?

It is recommended that they sign the church policy

Q.12. Is there a need for a Code of Behaviour for Children and should children be involved in drawing up the code?

Yes, it is good practice to have a code of behaviour for children and they should be involved in drawing up the code. There is a sample code available in Standard 3 of the Archdiocesan Policies & Procedures

