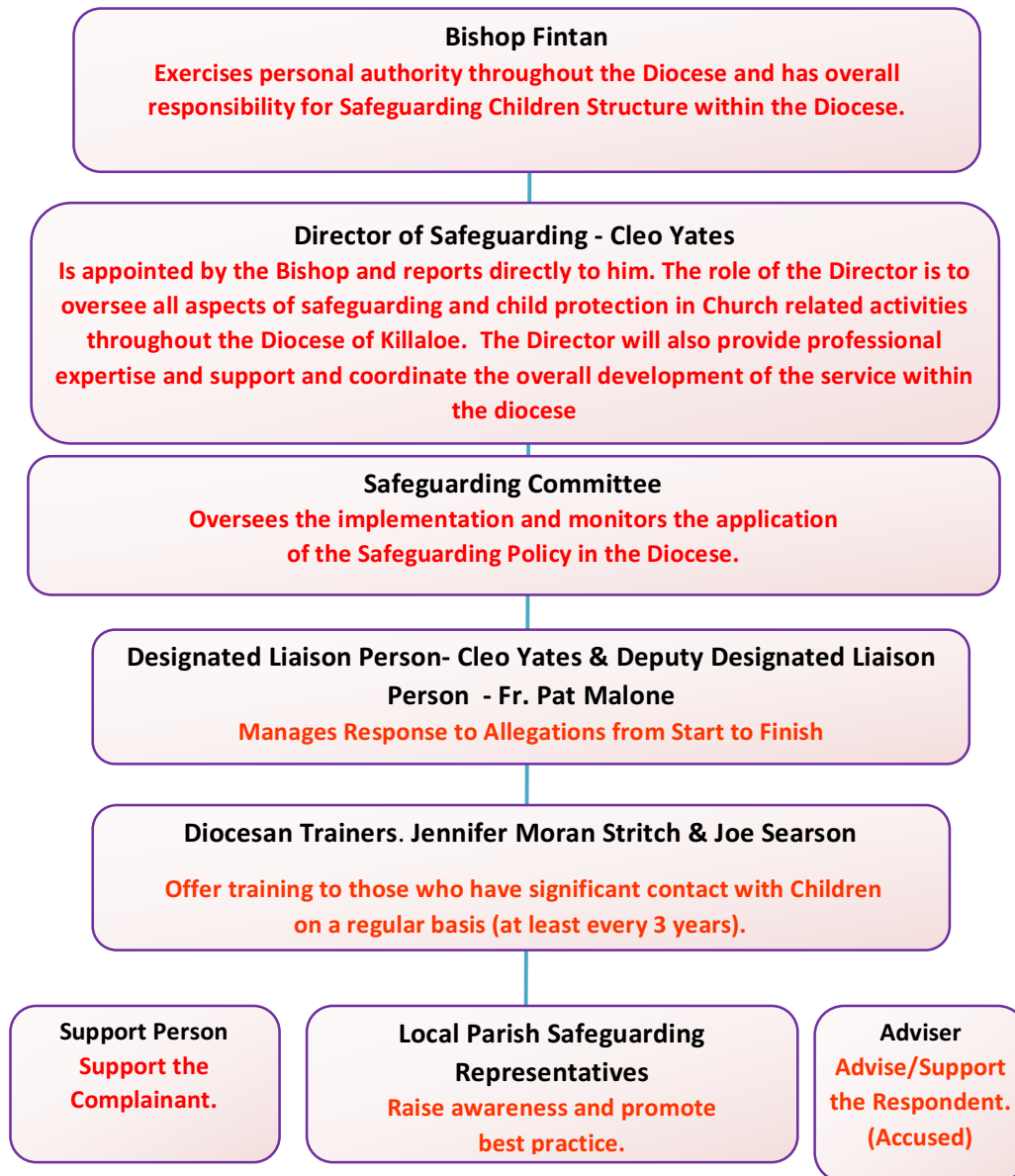


DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Bishop Fintan and the Safeguarding Committee welcome this Safeguarding Newsletter for the month of May, which is the dedicated month for safeguarding in the Diocese.

The Diocese of Killaloe welcomes the involvement of children and young people in the activities and life of the Diocese. We ask that all Parishes raise awareness of safeguarding in their newsletters and at Mass during this month.

What is the safeguarding Structure in the Diocese!



Safeguarding in your Parish.

In each Parish the responsibility for Safeguarding is that of the Parish Priest. To assist him with this, he has appointed **Local Safeguarding Representatives**, which is a requirement under the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy.

They are responsible to the Parish Priest to promote child safeguarding by:

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1. Raising awareness of what child safeguarding is;
2. Disseminating information regarding the Standards and Guidance, and circulating this information widely;
3. Ensuring Church activities are provided in a way that ensures the safety and wellbeing of the children involved;
4. Ensuring that the contact details of Designated Liaison Person, Garda and TUSLA are widely publicised.

Safeguarding updates.

We would like to update you on some of the safeguarding practices that are in place within Parishes and the Diocese.

- A new safeguarding Policy was introduced last year, entitled “**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY AND STANDARDS FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND 2016**”. This Policy has been adopted by all Church Authorities in Ireland. The revised set of standards is designed to ensure up-to-date ‘best practice’ in all aspects of child safeguarding.
A fully copy of this policy will be in your Parish office or can be accessed on the Diocesan Website, www.killaloediocese.ie/safeguarding
- The Diocese held an evening workshop in April, delivered by Dr. Maureen Griffin, on ‘The Dangers of Social Media for those working with children’ this was open to Parishes and schools. Dr. Griffin’s website, www.mgmstraining.ie has lots of useful information for parents / teachers etc. on this subject.
- **GARDA VETTING**
E-Vetting implementation by the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 and 2016. This Act provides a legislative basis for the mandatory vetting of anyone who is to undertake certain work or activities relating to children or vulnerable adults, i.e. Altar Servers, Sacramental Preparation, Pray and Play etc. Upon its introduction the Diocese of Killaloe immediately went live with the E-vetting process. E-vetting is now mandatory; and it is the law. You can find our Garda vetting policy at www.killaloediocese.ie/safeguarding
- **3 Year Safeguarding Plan.**
The Diocese has a 3 year safeguarding plan which sets out, What, How, Who and in What time frame key elements of child safeguarding practice and procedures will be met by the Diocese. The 3 year safeguarding plan can be found at www.killaloediocese.ie/safeguarding
- **Training and Support for Keeping Children Safe:** Church personnel are trained and supported in all aspects of safeguarding relevant to their role, in order to develop and maintain the necessary knowledge, attitudes and skills to safeguard and protect children. The training plan for 2017 can be found on www.killaloediocese.ie/safeguarding

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- **Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message:** the plan for 2017 on how we aim to communicate the safeguarding message can be found www.killaloediocese.ie/safeguarding.
- **Parish Self Audits.** The Diocese each May sends out to all Parishes and any Ministry undertaken where children are involved a self-audit to quality assure the Parishes compliance with the safeguarding standards. This audit is collated and forms the basis of the 3 year safeguarding plan, communication and training plan for the Diocese which can be found at www.killaloediocese.ie/safeguarding. The Diocese has a responsibility to monitor, evaluate and report on compliance to the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland. They in turn every 3 years audit the Diocese on its compliance to the standards.

In striving to avoid complacency and learn and improve on our practice, abiding by this policy and working to achieve these standards will protect children, Church personnel and the integrity of the Church and its mission.

- **Child Friendly leaflets:** The Diocese has launched child friendly leaflets and a poster to ensure the safeguarding message is communicated to all. These are available in the Parish.

If you would like more information on Safeguarding please visit the website or contact Director of Safeguarding, Ms Cleo Yates.

Finally, we would like to thank all in the parishes for their continued support, cooperation and assistance in making and keeping safeguarding a priority in our parishes.

Cleo Yates
Director of Safeguarding

May 2017.

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