



Safeguarding Strategy and Plan Jan 2023/Dec2025

Introduction.

The Diocese of Killaloe recognises that to keep children safe and adults at risk of abuse safe, policies, procedures and plans have to be implemented and their effectiveness monitored and evaluated. In order to do this the Diocese has outlined the following strategy. This strategy is in place and operational.

1.0 Establishment of Safeguarding Structures.

The Diocese of Killaloe under the Bishop has established the following structures in order to ensure its safeguarding policies, procedures and plans are fully implemented and monitored.

Safe-Environment Safeguarding Structure in the Diocese of Killaloe

- **Bishop** – Overall responsibility for Safeguarding in the Diocese.
- **Director of Safeguarding** – To Support the Bishop in the development, implementation and monitoring of best practice in Safeguarding throughout the parishes and agencies of the Diocese of Killaloe. (See expand role in appendix of this document)
- **Parish Priest** – Overall responsibility at parish level for Safeguarding.
- **Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR)** – Every Parish in the Diocese will appoint at least one lay person as Local Safeguarding Representative in order to promote safeguarding in conjunction with the Parish Priest by:
 - Raising Awareness of Diocesan Safeguarding Policies & Procedures.
 - Ensure contact details for Designated Persons are widely available.
 - Ensure church activities are in line with best practice.
- **Safeguarding Committee** – To support and advise the Bishop and Director of Safeguarding for the diocese on:
 - The provision of training.
 - The safe recruitment of volunteers and staff within their service area.
 - Creating, maintaining and monitoring a safe environment for in all aspects of Church life and activity.
 - Advising on the human resources required for implementing best practice.
- **Safeguarding Trainers** – The diocese has two NBSCCCI Accredited Trainers who are responsible for the provision of all aspects of Safeguarding Children training to Clergy, Staff, Volunteers, Parents and Children/Young People throughout the Diocese. They liaise closely with the NBSCCCI to ensure training standards are aligned to Church standards and attend any updating training by the NBSCCCI

Case Management Structure in the Diocese of Killaloe.

- **Bishop** – Overall responsibility for Safeguarding in the Diocese.
- **Designated Liaison Persons (DLP)** – The Diocese has appointed two Designated Liaison Persons. (See Appendix for role description).
- **Statutory Authorities** – The Diocese has established collaborative and professional links with key child protection personnel in the Tusla and liaises closely with An Garda Síochána and HSE safeguarding teams.
- **Case Management Committee** - (See Appendix for expanded role).
- **Support Person(s)** – Vacant. Support Person who is available to those who make an allegation/disclosure of abuse. (See Appendix for expanded role).
- **Adviser** – The Diocese has appointed Advisers who will be available to the respondent. (See Appendix for expanded role)

2.0 Development and Review of Diocesan Safeguarding Polies & Procedures Document.

The Diocese as a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland follows the Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland (2016). This Document is widely disseminated and made available to all Clergy, Staff, Volunteers, Diocesan Agencies, Committees, Parents & Children/Young People.

The Diocese has implemented at Adult Safeguarding policy (Adults at risk of abuse) in conjunction with the other 6 Dioceses within Munster

The Diocesan Policy and Procedures are operational and are made known to the whole church community including children/young people. All people, clergy, Staff & Volunteers, who through their ministry in the Catholic Church within the Diocese of Killaloe have direct contact with children/young people and adults at risk of abuse, are obliged to sign-up to this policy document and all that it contains.

3.0 Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation of Safeguarding Policies & Procedures.

The Diocese through its structures as outlined above will continually endeavour to implement, monitor & evaluate its Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. This will be achieved in the following ways:

- **Parish Audits** – The Diocese through its Safeguarding Committee, led by the Diocesan Director of Safeguarding will conduct regular audits of all parishes in the diocese to ensure all pertinent aspects of Safeguarding Policies and Procedures are being implemented and monitored. The audit will include the completion of a written review questionnaire encompassing all aspects of

Safeguarding Policies & Procedures. This will be completed by the Parish Priest & Local Safeguarding Representative and returned to Office of Safeguarding in the Diocese.

- The Diocesan Office of Safeguarding will facilitate Implementation and Monitoring Workshops for Priests and Local Safeguarding representatives.
- The Designated Liaison Person with Trainers will undertake additional visits on an on-going basis to assist parishes to become familiar and competent in all matters concerning Safeguarding.
- Incidental parish audits will take place on an on-going basis in consultation with the Safeguarding Committee and Parishes
- Training will be provided by the Diocesan Trainers to all staff and volunteers to ensure they are familiar and competent in all matters concerning Safeguarding.
- The Diocese will constantly be attentive to the communication of its Safeguarding Policies & Procedures and use all methods at its disposal to ensure that it is communicated as clearly and as widely as possible. Communication methods will include:
 - Dissemination of Safeguarding Policy & Procedures Document in various formats to Clergy, Staff, Volunteers, Diocesan Agencies, Parent & Children/Young People.
 - Raising Awareness conferences for Parishes/Deaneries.
 - Posters.
 - Website.
 - Brochures/Flyers.
 - Newsletters.
 - Regional Papers when deemed appropriate.
 - Parish Newsletters/Bulletins.
 - Letters/Emails to Key Safeguarding Personnel.
 - Meetings/Briefing with Key Safeguarding Personnel.

The Diocese recognises that all strategies and plans must be dynamic and so it will review its strategy and plan on an on-going basis.

4.0 Safeguarding Plan.

Standard	Specific Objective	Action	Responsibility	Implementation Date	Review Date	Review completed
1: Creating and Maintaining Safe Environments	Review of safeguarding practices by NBSCCCI	Full review of the safeguarding in parishes and Dioceses.	Bishop/ safeguarding personnel	1 st January 2023	December 2023	
	Ensure that all new groups using Church facilities have insurance and a safeguarding policy in place	LSR to complete checks on all new and existing groups using Church property (identified through the local safeguarding audits)	LSRs		December 2024	
	Ensure that Church personnel have been vetted in accordance with guidance on vetting	Those requiring vetting are identified through local safeguarding audits Copies of vetting forms provided to identified personnel Completed forms sent to vetting coordinator	LSR LSR Authorised signatory	1 st January 2023	December 2023 December 2024 December 2025	
5: Training and Support	Ensure that all Church personnel receive appropriate training in safeguarding	Develop annual training plan Deliver annual training plan	Safeguarding committee Safeguarding committee	1 st January 2023		

6: Communicating the Church’s Safeguarding Message	Ensure that the Church’s safeguarding message is communicated to identified audiences	Develop annual communications plan Deliver annual communications plan	Safeguarding committee Safeguarding committee	1 st January 2023	December 2023 December 2024 December 2025	
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What resources are needed to carry out the child safeguarding plan?	<p>Financial support from Diocese</p> <p>All key personnel appointed Training and support from NBSCCCI</p> <p>Appointment of new safeguarding committee members</p>
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Signed Cleo Yates: Director of Safeguarding

November 2022