

# CHILD SAFEGUARDING

## POLICY STATEMENT OF THE DIOCESE OF KILDARE & LEIGHLIN

The Gospel teaches the importance of ensuring that the Catholic Church community is a warm, welcoming and safe place for children.

*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. (Mark 10:14-15)*

Children are gifts from God, to be cherished and recognised for the joyful contribution they make as valued members of the Church. Our challenge is to follow the example of Jesus in cherishing them. Safeguarding is key to this important task and should be seen, not as a burden, but as an opportunity to embrace and encourage children's ministry, following the example of Jesus Christ.

This Church body pledges to safeguard children and young people from harm and to support them in their development as valued and integral members of the Catholic Church in Ireland. The Church's ministry will be inclusive and will uphold their rights.

Consistent with Gospel values, and with civil and criminal law, those who minister will do so with dignity and integrity, honouring their calling to ensure that children and young people are welcomed, cherished and protected, following the example set by Jesus.

This Safeguarding Children Policy will be honoured and complied with by all ordained clerics, by vowed female and male religious, and by all lay staff and volunteers in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

### COMMITMENT BY THE BISHOP OF KILDARE & LEIGHLIN

On behalf of the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin, as part of the Catholic Church in Ireland, I commit to:

- Safeguarding Children by agreeing to follow this Safeguarding Children Policy
- Supporting Church personnel in Kildare & Leighlin to follow all aspects of this policy
- Accepting my responsibilities for creating a culture of safety; building safe environments for children; and ensuring that children are welcome, involved in ministry and free from harm
- Responding to and managing allegations of abuse with compassion and fairness and in line with civil and canonical requirements
- Accepting my overall responsibility as Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin to uphold safeguarding as a core ministry in the Catholic Church in Ireland

Signature:

  
✱ Denis Nulty  
Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin

Date: August 2024

**KANDLE**  
KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN DIOCESE

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

### IF YOU HAVE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD, CONTACT:

**DIOCESAN DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON (DLP)**

085 802 1633

**TUSLA - THE CHILD & FAMILY AGENCY**

**CARLOW / KILKENNY** 059 912 9500

**KILDARE** 045 839 300 **LAOIS** 057 869 2567

**OFFALY** 044 935 3997

**GARDA NATIONAL PROTECTIVE SERVICES BUREAU**

01 666 3430 **OR** 112 **OR** YOUR LOCAL GARDA STATION