



The Dominican Friars of the Province of Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement

This statement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Children First Act 2015*.

Statement

The Dominican Friars of the Province of Ireland recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and is committed to ensuring their protection, safety and well-being. The Dominican Province of Ireland will work in partnership with parents/carers and or guardians in order for them to achieve this. The Province values and encourages the participation of children, young people and vulnerable adults in all activities that enhance their physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual development recognising that each child is a gift from God.

All Dominican personnel, including Friars (ordained and non ordained) lay staff, volunteers and lay students have a responsibility to do all in their power to create safe environments for children, young people and vulnerable adults where they will be protected from physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

Nature of service

The Dominican Order through its public ministry engages with children, young people and vulnerable adults in a variety of ways which include the following:

- Attendance by children, young people and vulnerable adults in Church services usually, but not always, accompanied by their parents/carers or guardians
- Participation of children and young people in sacramental preparation often, but not always, done in conjunction with schools
- Participation in the sacraments through serving at Mass, singing with choirs and acting as Ministers of the Word
- Participation in youth groups, youth ministries and residential programmes
- Participation in school based religious and or social activities
- Participation in school retreats and pilgrimages
- Participation in counselling services.

It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive.

Principles to safeguard children from harm

The Dominican Province of Ireland endeavour to provide a welcoming, nurturing and safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Province's Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in accordance with the requirements under the Children First Act, 2015, Children First: *National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice* and the National Board for Safeguarding Children in Ireland (NBSCCI). In addition to the procedures listed in the Province's risk assessment outlined below, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults whilst they participate in Church Ministry and related Church activities.

Current Dominican Friars of the Province of Ireland policy and procedures includes the following:

- Ensuring the fundamental rights of children, young people and vulnerable adults are respected.
- Ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults will be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity.
- Safe recruitment practices by choosing carefully those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Obtaining parental/carer, guardian consent for the involvement of children, young people in all church related activities.
- Ensuring that religious personnel and volunteers behave appropriately towards children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Provision of information about the Dominican Friars of the Province of Ireland child protection policy and good practice with children, young people and their parents/carers and guardians.
- Provision of induction training for church personnel, staff, volunteers and students in relation to the Province's safeguarding policy which includes reporting child protection concerns
- Promoting positive behaviour in children, young people and vulnerable adults and adopting strategies to prevent bullying
- Ensuring appropriate procedures are in place, including supervision, when organising church based activities and outings
- Communicating appropriately with children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Maintaining good records.
- Provision of a list of Mandated Persons
- Appointment of a Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Risk Assessment

The Dominican Friars of the Province of Ireland have carried out an assessment of the potential for harm to children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities in the Province. The following lists the identified risks and the practices and procedures in place for managing these risks.

Risk Identified	Procedures and Practices in place to manage identified risk (please refer to the Policy for Safeguarding Children, Dominicans Friars of the Province of Ireland, March 2010)
Through their involvement in church/public ministry activities, children, young people and vulnerable adults could be exposed to people who may cause them harm.	All church personnel/clergy, including visiting clergy, volunteers, and students involved in public ministry and/or pastoral activities with children, young people and vulnerable adults are subject to Garda vetting. A celebret will not be issued to any priest or deacon until Garda vetting is completed.
Allegation of abuse or misconduct against any of the church brethren, or any person who may work with the Province in a paid or voluntary capacity, against a child, young	The Dominican Friars of the Province of Ireland Safeguarding policy outlines the procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against any of the brethren or any person who may

<p>person and vulnerable adult involved in public ministry.</p>	<p>work with the Province in a paid or voluntary capacity.</p> <p>Provision of training to brethren or any person who may work with the Province in a paid or voluntary capacity.</p>
<p>Dominican Church personnel, paid or unpaid working with children, young people and vulnerable adults could behave inappropriately towards and or engage in unsafe ministry practices.</p>	<p>Code of behaviour/conduct for those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.</p> <p>Best practice procedures involving appropriate communication with children, young people and vulnerable adults (see Policy for Safeguarding Children, Dominicans Friars of the Province of Ireland, March 2010, page 14-15)</p> <p>Complaints procedures</p>
<p>Responsibility for safeguarding and child protection in the Dominican Province of Ireland</p>	<p>Policy for Safeguarding Children, Dominicans Friars of the Province of Ireland, March 2010, details the roles and responsibilities for safeguarding in the Province.</p> <p>Training, information and advice is provided by the Designated Liaison Person, (DLP) and NBSCCI. The Diocesan Child Safeguarding and Protection Service provide training for parishes staffed by Dominicans, as it does for all other parishes.</p>
<p>Lone working and or working in unsafe, unsupervised environments</p>	<p>One to one activities may be an essential, valuable and necessary facet of therapeutic/counselling work and the Province will endeavour to ensure that adequate safety precaution and practices are in place in such situations, for example in counselling, retreat activities, residential and or youth activities.</p> <p>Provincial, director, youth and residential leaders and or senior member of the brethren are aware of lone working arrangements which may take place in the parish ministries/youth club/counselling centres and Knockadoon camp at all times.</p> <p>Parents/carers to be made aware of lone arrangement plans in advance and as when required.</p> <p>Provision of adequate supervision, arrangements for activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults at all times.</p> <p>Induction and training for all staff.</p>
<p>Peer to peer abuse/bullying, including use of social media.</p>	<p>Code of Behaviour is shared with all children, young people and their parents/carers.</p> <p>Rules re appropriate behaviour outlined and included in</p>

	<p>planning for all public ministries and or church related activities.</p> <p>Anti-bullying procedure and strategies to prevent further bullying</p> <p>All adults working in church based roles involved with children, young people and vulnerable adults to provide positive role model</p> <p>On-going supervision of open public spaces, activities, for example, when on retreats, participating in summer programmes/camps.</p>
External groups who use Church property are unsafe to do so.	<p>Policy for Safeguarding Children, Dominicans Friars of the Province of Ireland, March 2010 is circulated to all services and relevant declaration and checks are made with regard to child protection policy and procedures in place, including confirmation of Garda Vetting, relevant and up to date Child Protection Training and insurance details.</p> <p>Annual Church self-audit</p>
Any child, young person and or vulnerable adults may have been, is being or is at future risk of abuse or neglect which may go undetected and or unreported	<p>Policy for Safeguarding Children, Dominicans Friars of the Province of Ireland, March 2010 has been circulated and continues to be provided to all church based ministries, parishes and services provided under the auspices of the Dominicans.</p> <p>Safeguarding information, training and advice provided by the Dominican Safeguarding Office and the NBSCCI. The Diocesan Child Safeguarding and Protection Service provide training for parishes staffed by Dominicans, as it does for all other parishes.</p> <p>Safeguarding message conveyed through Dominican OP websites, newsletters and parish safeguarding notices</p>
Child Protection Concerns	<p>The Dominican Province ensures that all its brethren, paid and unpaid staff, volunteers and students are familiar with its child protection policies and procedures.</p> <p>Reporting thresholds and procedures outlined in the Policy for Safeguarding Children, 2010 and which are reviewed an on-going basis.</p>
Reporting Child Protection Concerns	<p>The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) will liaise with all relevant external agencies. The DLP will provide a advice, support and guidance to the Dominican brethren, staff, paid and unpaid, volunteers and students who have child protection concerns. This is done in</p>

	<p>accordance with Children First: <i>National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)</i> If the DLP is not available the deputy DLP can be contacted on any child protection matter.</p> <p>Joint reports will be made by DLP/ deputy DLP and Mandated Persons, where appropriate taking account of data protection requirements.</p>
Awareness of responsibilities as a Mandated Person under the Children First Act, 2015	<p>Role of mandated person as outlined on the Children First Act, 2015, and in the Children First: <i>National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)</i></p> <p>Information leaflet on overview of the role of Mandated Person's circulated to all Mandated Persons in monthly bulletin/newsletter</p> <p>List of Mandated Persons will be compiled and updated on an n-going basis</p> <p>Training and information sessions to be provided to all Mandated Persons.</p>
Safeguarding practice may not be fully implemented	<p>Annual self-audit carried out by the Dominican Safeguarding Office.</p> <p>External review by NBSCCI.</p>

Child Protection Procedures

The Dominican Order, OP promptly reports all concerns that a child, young person and or a vulnerable adult may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected in accordance with procedures developed in line with the requirements of the:

- *Children First Act, 2015,*
- *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017,*
- *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice,*
- *Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012.*

A copy of this Child Safeguarding Statement both as a separate document and as part of the Policy for Safeguarding Children, Dominicans Friars of the Province of Ireland, March 2010 is available on request and online at www.dominicans.ie.

Implementation

The Dominican Friars of the Province of Ireland is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the practices and procedures that support our commitment to keeping children, young people and vulnerable adults' safe from harm while engaged in any Church ministry and or church based activities in the Province.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in February 2020 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:



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For queries please contact: Mary Tallon, Designated Liaison Person/Coordinator of Safeguarding, Safeguarding Office, St. Mary's Priory, Tallaght, Dublin 24, X585 who is the Relevant Persons under the Children First Act 2015.

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