



Dominican Province of Ireland

Child Safeguarding Training Strategy (2024 - 2027)

Introduction:

The Dominican Province of Ireland is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people through the provision of safeguarding training. This child safeguarding training strategy details how the Irish Dominican Order supports all church personnel, religious, paid staff and volunteers, to acquire the knowledge, skills and values to safeguarding children and young people, protect them from harm and promote their welfare. It is an integral part of the implementation of the Irish Dominican Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and is also consistent with the Dominican vision to promote the rights of children and young people, including their right to be protected from harm, to be heard, listened to, and taken seriously.

Aim:

- To raise awareness and create an understanding of the individual obligation to safeguard children and young people.
- To develop confidence and competence amongst all church personnel, friars, paid staff and volunteers, in dealing with safeguarding matters.
- To provide good quality training and learning opportunities to all church personnel, which will enable them to fulfil their child safeguarding roles and responsibilities in accordance with the Dominican Province of Ireland, Safeguarding Children, Policy and Procedures Handbook, 2020, the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) which are outlined in the revised NBSCCCI Standards, *A Safe and Welcoming Church – Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024*. Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and where relevant, legal responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015.

Policy/Legislation context:

The training strategy is supported by the following documents:

- The Dominican Province of Ireland, Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure Handbook, 2020
- *A Safe and Welcoming Church – Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024, NBSCCCI.*
- The Dominican Province of Ireland, Child Safeguarding Statement, 2024
- Children First Act 2015
- Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017
- Tusla Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, 2nd Edition, 2019

- Tusla, Best Practice Principles for organisations in developing Children First Training Programmes, 2017

Child Safeguarding Training Requirements:

Child Safeguarding training and refresher training will be provided to all church personnel in accordance with core *Standard 2, Nurturing a Culture of Safeguarding, A Safe and Welcoming Church – Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024*, NBSCCCI. In accordance with this Standard, all church personnel must attend a one-day Child Safeguarding Training Event and thereafter attend a refresher session, every three years.

Training Implementation Strategy:

The Dominican Safeguarding Office will take a lead role in implementing the Dominican training strategy with the support of the Dominican National Safeguarding Committee, the Dominican Provincial and the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church (NBSCCCI).

- The Dominican National Safeguarding Committee's three-year strategy identifies safeguarding training as an ongoing objective, and which includes evidence that training will be delivered to church personnel within the Irish Dominican Province. A key task in achieving this objective is the completion of an annual training needs analysis.
- The Provincial and Safeguarding Coordinator will advise each community of the requirement for all church personnel to attend child safeguarding training appropriate to their role and level of contact with children and young people.
- A training register will be maintained by the Safeguarding Office who will also track required refresher training requirements.
- The Safeguarding Office will consult the training register and liaise with the Prior of each community during the annual safeguarding audit regarding safeguarding training needs, which will inform the training needs analysis.
- The child safeguarding training programme will be coordinated and delivered by the Safeguarding Office. In the event of a resource training deficit, a registered external trainer may be contracted for certain tasks.
- The Provincial will ensure that all necessary resources are available to support the delivery of safeguarding training in accordance with the training strategy.
- External support and guidance regarding training and/or training materials can be accessed from the Director of Training in the NBSCCCI.
- Training will be reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis. This will include participant evaluation; information provided during the annual safeguarding audit and a Safeguarding Office review and the provision of details regarding training conducted. Feedback is also provided to the NBSCCCI on an annual basis in accordance with the NBSCCCI Standards.
- The NBSCCCI have a quality assurance role in relation to the overarching NBSCCCI child safeguarding training strategy and all safeguarding training provided can only be delivered by registered NBSCCCI trainers. In addition, all NBSCCCI trainers must undergo a review of training delivery every three years.

- All training records will be maintained and stored in line with GDPR, Data Protection legislation and the Irish Dominican Data Protection Policy.

Resources required in implementing the training strategy:

- Safeguarding Office personnel to attend all relevant and updated training as required by the NBSCCCI.
- Safeguarding Office personnel to keep updated and informed regarding any key legislative, church and policy changes.
- The Safeguarding Office to ensure training registers are maintained reviewed and evaluated after each training event.
- The Safeguarding Office to coordinate and plan for all training events.

Key partners in training strategy:

The key partners in the training strategy are the Dominican Safeguarding National Committee, the Dominican Provincial, and the Safeguarding Office.

Duration of training strategy:

The training strategy will remain in place for 3 years but may need to be reviewed and updated in accordance with any legislative, church changes/developments during this period.

Signed:

Pat Connell

**Chairperson
Dominican National Safeguarding Committee**

Date: June 5th, 2024

Review Date: June 2027