

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT OF THE HANDMAIDS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

This statement has been prepared to comply with the children's act 2015 and is derived from children safeguarding policy and standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016.

Statement

As a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland, we recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and are committed to their safety and wellbeing and are committed to work with parents and guardians to ensure this. We recognise each child as a gift from God and we value and encourage the participation of children in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All Church Personnel including religious, clergy, staff and volunteers) have a responsibility to safeguard children through developing their welfare, health and development in safe and caring environment that supports their best interest and prevents abuse

Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

The Handmaids of The Sacred Heart of Jesus as a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland exists and promotes the teachings of the Catholic Church. This includes the following ministry with children, as defined in the safeguarding children policy and standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016.

We are trustees of St Raphaela's Primary and Secondary School. Some of the Sisters carry out pastoral ministry in both of our schools. Many of the primary school children take part in our community Mass and some of them serve at Mass. We occasionally facilitate school retreats on our premises. As our convent building is on the same campus as the two schools we frequently make our house available for several school activities.

As outlined in the children's safeguarding policy and standards in Ireland 2016 we are committed to the following principles:

Mandatory reporting

Each of us has a duty of notifying the statutory authorities of suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations that a child has been or is being abused.

- . Physically
- . Emotionally
- . Sexually
- . Or through neglect

Suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations may relate to possible abuse by Church personnel but they can also relate to incidents in a child's family or elsewhere in the community.

Caring for the welfare of all children and the adults who work with them

Measures to create and maintain environments that are safe for children that prevent abuse and create nurturing caring conditions within the Church for children and the adults who work with them

will continue to be strengthened and reviewed. This will be done by training, support, communication and quality assurance.

Responding appropriately to child protection suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations

Anyone who brings any suspicions, concern or knowledge or allegation of current or past abuse of knowledge of a child to the Church will be responded to sensitively, respectfully, actively and in a timely manner, in line with statutory child protection procedures and Church requirements.

All suspicions, concerns, knowledge of accusations that meet the threshold for reporting to the statutory authorities (apart from those received in the sacrament of reconciliation) will be reported to the appropriate statutory authorities. This will be done irrespective of the status of the person (Lay, cleric or religious) who is suspected of having been abusive to a child. If the allegation relates to a lay member of the Church personnel, in addition to the statutory authorities, the allegation must be reported to the Church authorities. If the allegation relates to a cleric or religious in addition to notifying the statutory authorities the allegation must be reported to the Church authority and the national board for the safeguarding of children in Ireland.

All Church personnel will cooperate with the statutory authorities in all cases

In responding to complaints of child sexual abuse relating to clergy and all those in forms of consecrated life, church authorities will act in accordance with civil law and canon law and so will respect the rights and uphold the safeguards afforded in these, both to the complainant and the

Caring pastorally for the compliments and other affected persons

Those who have suffered. Hold abuse by Church personnel, will receive a compassionate and just response, and will be offered appropriate pastoral care, counselling and support as they seek to rebuild their lives. An appropriate response to the family, parish, congregation or order and to the wider community will be provided, with due regard to the right of privacy to those directly involved, and to the administration of justice.

Caring pastorally for respondents and other affected persons

The Church body in its response to suspicions, concerns, knowledge of allegation of child sexual abuse will respect the rights under civil law and canon law of a cleric, religious or other Church personnel. A legal presumption of innocence will be maintained during the statutory and Church enquiry process. As the processes develop, additional assessment, therapy and support services may be offered to the respondent.

The Church authority will take responsibility for ensuring that any cleric or religious who is considered to constitute a danger is managed according to a risk management plan.

All requisite steps will be taken to restore the good name and reputation of anyone who has wrongly been accused of abusing a child.

Respondents belong to families, diocesan or religious families. The Church authority will be mindful of the need to provide support to families and communities affected by the respondents changed situation.

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RISK MANAGEMENT OF THE HANDMAIDS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Risk Identified	Procedures in place to manage risks identified
Those that work with children are unsafe to do so	Creating and maintaining a safe environment by effective practice of guidelines and legislation in the recruitment of all Church personnel and assessing their suitability to work with children
Those that work with children have behaved inappropriately towards them	To implement effective standards of adult's behaviour towards children
Children who use our service do not understand the roles and responsibilities in place to encourage positive behaviour	To implement effective practice in encouraging children's positive behaviour
The environment in which work with children is facilitated fails to meet effective safeguarding practice	To implement effective practice in the safe care of all children, including those with special needs.
External groups who use our grounds	To ensure that the safe use of our grounds and premises by external groups complies with effective child safeguarding practice and they show proof of a written policy
Those who wish to behave dangerously or unethically towards children are able to do so	To have clearly written whistle-blowing procedures to support and assist church personnel to raise concerns about possible dangerous or unethical conduct by others towards children.
Those who wish to exploit through the use of media in our ministries are able to do so	The church body implements effective practice for the appropriate use of technology including social media by church personnel and children
Children and their parents do not understand their responsibilities to safeguard children	To ensure that children who access activities related to our premises and their parents/guardians are provided with information, advice and support on keeping children safe.
Children and their parents do not understand the Church's policy, procedures and structures to safeguarding	To ensure that they have access to our safeguarding policy and understand it.
The procedures for safeguarding children fail to be implemented	That the person in charge of insuring that these procedures are being carried out checks on a regular basis by gathering the persons concerned and reminds them of their responsibility to act according to safeguarding procedures
The Church authority fails to ensure the appointment of a reliant person and maintain a list of mandated persons	The Church authority takes responsibility to ensure that the induction of all church personal – lay, religious or clergy have training in the Church's child safeguarding policies and procedures and makes an annual analysis and insures it has a list of mandated persons.
That a respondent is treated in a fair and just way.	The Church authority has arrangements in place to inform the respondent that an allegation has been received about them, and has a procedure for deciding whether an interim management plan needs to be put in church body records all to

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That proper records are not kept	ensure to insure that all suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations and action is taken that this complies with relevant data protection legislation, statutory guidelines on confidentiality and storage of information and that

Procedures

All procedures outlined in the risk assessment above are available from Sr Patricia at St Raphaela's Convent

Implementation

The Handmaids the Sacred heart of Jesus are committed to safeguarding children through the implementation of the safeguarding children's policy and standards of the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016. This child safeguarding statement and our practice supports our desire to keep children safe from harm while in our ministries. As part of our annual audit against the relevant indicators of the child safeguarding standards, we will review the effectiveness of our practice as outlined in this statement and will revise, as appropriate.

Signed Ane McReamney

Church Authority Provincial leader

Date March 12, 2018

For any enquiries relating to this statement please contact Sr. Patricia at St. Raphaela's Convent, Stillorgan. Tel: 012889963