

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY (RCB)

Name and Details of the Service Provider

Representative Church Body (RCB)

Church of Ireland House
Church Avenue
Rathmines
Dublin 6
D06 CF67

Telephone: +353 (0)1 4978 422

Statement

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

The RCB acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

The RCB is committed to safeguarding children by working under the guidance of its national safeguarding policy Safeguarding Trust and its associated procedures. We recognise that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. The bishops, clergy, volunteers and staff are committed to ensuring that all children have a positive and enjoyable experience in a safe and child centred environment and are protected from abuse whilst participating in activities.

Nature of Service

The RCB provides the following activities and services to children under 18 years of age:

- Relevant Activities run by the Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD)
- Relevant Activities run by the Church of Board for Ministry with Children and Families

Risk Assessment

All parishes, dioceses and other bodies operating under Safeguarding Trust have conducted a written risk assessment of any potential for harm to a child through their involvement in each Church activity. The written risk assessment indicates the areas of potential harm, the likelihood of harm occurring, and lists the required policy, guidance, process and practice required to manage risks. If there are site specific risks that local parishes and diocese need to include in their Child Safeguarding Statement they have done so in conjunction with their relevant person.

Risks Identified	Polices/Procedures in Place
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of the clergy/staff/volunteer/peer	Safeguarding Trust includes a code of behaviour and vetting procedures which addresses these risks. These are available at https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/child-safeguarding-roi/
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) to a child on outings by a member of the clergy/staff/volunteer/stranger/peer	Safeguarding Trust addresses these risks and is available at https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/roi-child-safeguarding-part-5/#12

Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) to a child of bullying by peers	Safeguarding Trust addresses these risks and is available at https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/roi-child-safeguarding-part-4/
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from unauthorised photography	Safeguarding Trust addresses these risks and is available at https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/roi-child-safeguarding-part-5/#10
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from online abuse through social media or internet access	Safeguarding Trust addresses these risks and is available at https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/roi-child-safeguarding-part-5/#11 and there is further guidance available here .
Church of Ireland Bishops, members of the clergy, volunteers or staff fail to understand their responsibilities to protect children from risk of harm as (as defined in the CFA 2015)	Procedures to provide safeguarding training and support are in place as part of Safeguarding Trust available at https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/roi-child-safeguarding-part-3/ and https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/roi-child-safeguarding-part-7/

In addition to the risk assessments and the above policies and procedures, the following procedures are in place as part of Safeguarding Trust which is available at:

<https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/>:

- Procedures for the safe recruitment of volunteers or employees to work with children in our services.
- Procedures for provision of and access to child safeguarding training, including the identification and reporting of harm.
- Procedures for reporting child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla and An Garda Síochána.
- Procedures for maintaining a list of persons in each diocese who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person for this child safeguarding statement.
- Procedures for dealing with allegations made against clergy/staff/volunteer/peer.

Implementation

The RCB recognises that implementation is an on-going process and is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support its intention to keep children safe from harm and the risk of harm. The Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed no later than 1ST July 2027,¹ or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed by the provider of the relevant service:

David Ritchie

01/07/2025

Relevant Person

For any queries relating to this statement please contact the relevant person who is:

Niall Moore

niall.moore@rcbcoi.org

¹ 24 months after the existing Child Safeguarding Statement