

Questions:

Have you heard of the work of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church? Yes No

Have you seen or heard of the Safeguarding Children Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland? Yes No

Do you think the Child Protection policy in this Friary is displayed adequately? Yes No

Would you know how to go about reporting allegations and suspicions of child abuse? Yes No

Do you know where to find the names of the Designated Child Protection person(s)? Yes No

Do you know how to contact the Designated Child Protection person(s)? Yes No

Do you think that the Church's Safeguarding message has been communicated effectively? Yes No

Is our communication regarding Safeguarding Children (and vulnerable adults) adequate? Yes No

Do you think that Child Protection Training should be offered to everyone involved in the Friary? Yes No

Thank you...



Franciscan Province of Ireland

Safeguarding Newsletter

Sunday 16th November 2014

"All children have a fundamental right to be respected, nurtured, cared for and protected. This right is embedded in Gospel values, best practice guidelines and international and domestic laws." *Safeguarding Children in Ireland 2008*



Hugh McKenna
Provincial, OFM

The Franciscan Friars in Ireland are committed to the highest standards of Child Safeguarding. We want to ensure that every child is cherished and safe within our friaries and school. We are fully signed up to the standards and guidelines of the National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland. Our systems and procedures have been vetted recently by the HSE and we were found to be in full compliance with HSE requirements.

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring a safe environment for children we have established a Safeguarding Committee. This committee consists of Thérèse Gaynor (Chair), Niall O'Connell OFM, Maranna Quinlivan and Monica Dowling. Twice a year Maranna and Monica visit each of our friaries to ensure that they are compliant with our Safeguarding standards and practices. This ongoing vigilance ensures that all of our friaries throughout the country remain safe places for all of our young people and vulnerable adults.



Maranna Quinlivan

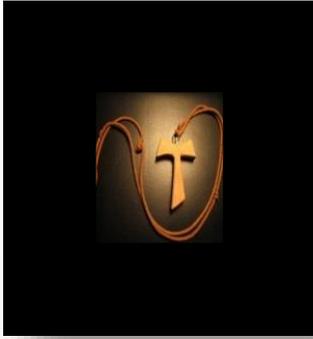


Monica Dowling

As part of the safeguarding monitoring group our task is to ensure that public areas in friaries are suitable and as safe as possible for all who use them. So, we check that the signs regarding safeguarding are in place and up to date, that record books (e.g. the attendance of servers, junior choirs etc.) are completed and stored safely. We also check that a parent or guardian has given written consent for children who participate in friary led activities.

Usually we visit friaries twice a year, meet with the Guardian (and sometimes with the community), visit the public areas of the buildings and listen to any concerns. We also attend a bi-annual meeting of the monitoring committee. These meetings allow good practice to be shared across all the friaries. The friary monitoring system works in co-operation with the relevant diocesan policies and is compliant with the requirements of those policies.

We appreciate the hospitality and welcome we have received on our visits in this task of implementing the Franciscan Monitoring Policy.



As Franciscans we are committed to a Code of Behaviour that aims to...

- ✚ Treat all to whom we minister with respect and courtesy.
- ✚ Respect the boundary of physical and emotional space that others require, using touch in a prudent and responsible way.
- ✚ Provide pastoral ministry in a sufficiently safe environment, ordinarily one that is open and visible.
- ✚ Ensure whenever reasonably possible that another adult is present or close by when providing pastoral ministry to a minor or vulnerable adult.
- ✚ In the event of pastoral outings, to behave with due prudence that has the other as its central concern. To avoid staying in the same room or travelling alone with a minor or vulnerable adult.
- ✚ Avoid all inappropriate communication with children and vulnerable adults through the internet, e-mail, text messages or otherwise.
- ✚ Ensure that permission of the parent/guardian is given when taking photographs and making videos or other recordings of children in the course of ministry to them.
- ✚ Avoid the use of the pastoral role to foster relationships of dependence and subservience, over-familiarity with one child or vulnerable adult to the exclusion of others.
- ✚ Avoid any form of over-familiarity or inappropriate language that could reasonably be interpreted as harassment.
- ✚ Never to provide alcohol or any drug/substance to a minor without the express permission of the parent/guardian. To never provide anything that is illegal.
- ✚ Never act in a way that is intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade.

*Whatever may deceive the cleverest woman or man, the least wide-awake of children recognises, and is distressed by it, however ingeniously it may be disguised...
Leo Tolstoy (adapted)*



Safeguarding and protecting Children (and vulnerable adults) is a priority of the Catholic Church and to this end, we are committed to following and maintaining best practice as set out in the Standards and Guidance document for the Catholic Church.

Maintaining these standards is a dynamic process which involves all of us, where we work in collaboration with each other. We need your help to assess how we are doing and to develop the ways in which we may be communicating, while all the time remaining committed to following best practice standards.

❖ We would be grateful if you would respond to the questions on the other side of this page...