

# YOU!

## Safeguarding Children Checklist for your parish

- Are you involved in a church based organisation for example, choir, altar servers or liturgy group?
- If yes, does your organisation have a child protection policy statement, procedures and codes of conduct for children and for the adults who work with them?
- Are you familiar with the Diocesan Child Protection Policy Statement?



Sheila Goulding, Fr. George Hayes and Bridie Cronin

- Have you seen the Diocesan Policy Statement displayed? If yes, where?
- Do you know your parish safeguarding representatives?
- Did your parish safeguarding representatives disseminate information about safeguarding children to you:
  - as a person who works with children?
  - as a parent of a child involved in a church based organisation?
- Is it clear who you should contact if you have a concern about a child?

For further information please log on to [dioceseofkerry.ie](http://dioceseofkerry.ie)



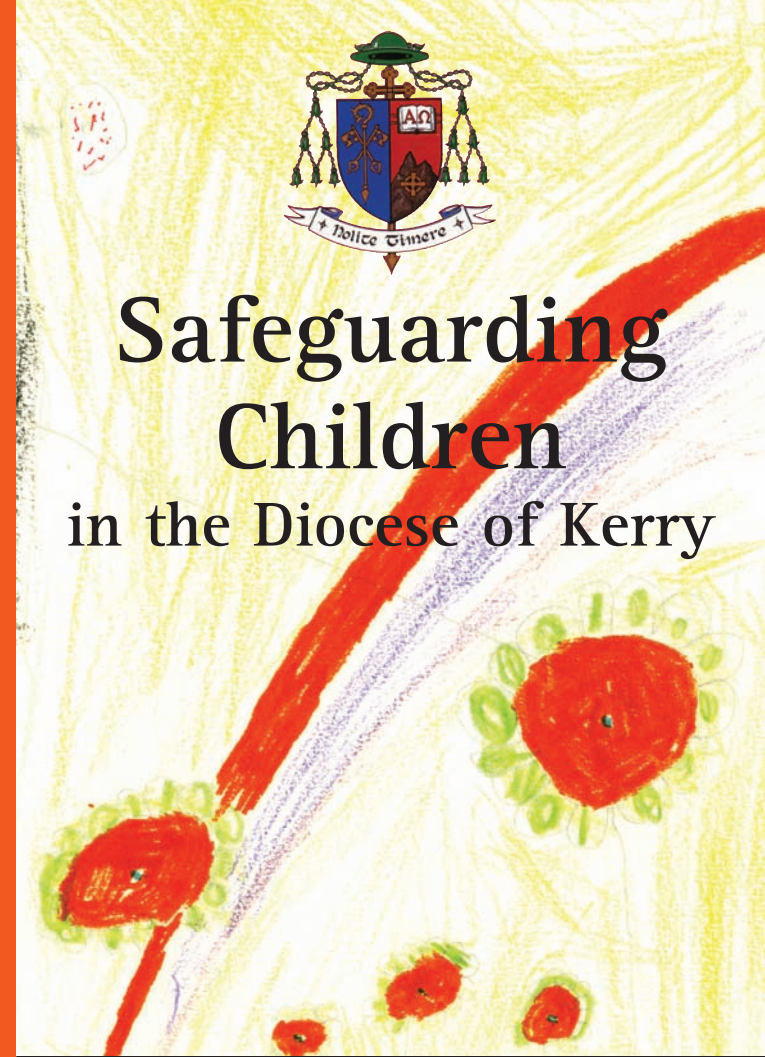
### Message from the Bishop of Kerry

Children are a central part of our mission and ministry in the Diocese of Kerry. Every child is made in the image and likeness of God and has a right to be heard, nurtured and protected in a safe and loving way. All children need protection and care, not only from their parents and guardians but from all those in whose care they are entrusted. With this in mind our Safeguarding Children Committee has drawn up diocesan policies and procedures. These guide how children are cared for as they participate in the various activities of their parish.

I thank all those people in our parishes who give so generously of their time and talents in the very important ministries and activities that serve children and young people. I am confident that the measures we are putting in place will help enhance the experience of children and young people in our parishes, and assist their parents in raising their children in the love and knowledge of Christ.

*+ Bill Murphy*

Bill Murphy  
Bishop of Kerry



**WHAT** the Diocese of Kerry is doing to Safeguard Children!

**WHO** is involved!

How **YOU** are involved!

## WHAT?

### Diocesan Child Protection Policy Statement

The Diocese of Kerry seeks to make known the Good News of Christ more fully through worship, service and witness. In keeping with this aim, ministry with children and young people in the Diocese is informed by the Gospel values of Truth, Justice and Love.

The Diocese of Kerry values and encourages the participation of children and young people in parish liturgies and in activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development. We recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and young people. We are committed to supporting and protecting children in a way that promotes their human dignity and integrity as children of God.

In keeping with this we undertake to do all in our power to create safe environments for children and young people, to ensure their protection from physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect.

### The Diocese of Kerry is committed to taking the following steps to:

- demonstrate the fundamental right of the child to protection from harm
- cherish and safeguard children and young people
- foster best practice
- demonstrate accountability through establishing effective structures
- support Church organisations and personnel in safeguarding children
- establish safe recruitment and vetting practices
- maintain codes of behaviour
- offer safe activities for children - helping ensure they can learn, play and pray in a safe environment.

## WHO?

### Diocesan Safeguarding Committee:

Fr. Gearoid Walsh, Chairperson

Bridie Cronin, Safeguarding Children Trainer/ Diocesan Co-ordinator

Fred Garvey, Safeguarding Children Trainer/ Garda Vetting Officer

Sheila Goulding, Parish Representative

Fr. George Hayes, Canon Lawyer

John Murrhly, Retired Garda Sgt

Medical Doctor

Clinical Psychologist

Solicitor

**This committee is responsible for the on-going development of policy and the implementation of best practice procedures in every parish.**

**All complaints, directives and recommendations that have been received by the diocese regarding child protection have been acted on.**

**This work is supported by [The National Board for Safeguarding Children](#).**

### The Designated Officers



#### Fr Pdraig Walsh

Fr. Pdraig Walsh P.P. Our Lady and St. Brendan's Tralee is the Designated Officer for Safeguarding Children in the Diocese. If you have a child protection concern or wish to report an allegation, please contact: Very Rev. Pdraig Walsh (087) 6362780

#### Fr. John Quinlan

Fr. John Quinlan is The Deputy Designated Officer.

## Co-ordinator for Safeguarding Children:



#### Bridie Cronin

Bridie is a retired Primary school teacher, native of Ballyheigue and living in Killarney. She completed her training in Child Protection and Best Practice in St. Patrick's College Maynooth in 2006. Bridie has trained 130 parish representatives alongside co-trainer, retired Chief Superintendent Fred Garvey.

Bridie Cronin (Trainer/ Diocesan Co-ordinator)

Tel: (064) 6631796 or (086) 8838243

Email: [croninbridget@eircom.net](mailto:croninbridget@eircom.net)

Fred Garvey (Trainer/ Garda Vetting Officer)

Tel: (066) 7124332 or (087) 2160706

Email: [gannefred@yahoo.com](mailto:gannefred@yahoo.com)



Fred Garvey

### Parish Representatives:

#### Mick Smith & Sheila Goulding

The role of the parish representative is to promote the safeguarding of children within church organisations, by raising awareness and disseminating information on *Safeguarding Children* which ensures their safety and well-being.



Mick is a retired Garda Detective. His involvement began through St. Brendan's Parish, Tralee, where he has been a Minister of the Word for many years. "When asked to become a Parish Rep, I soon realised the importance of the role. I'm glad that this is getting the energy it deserves."

Sheila is a Killarney Primary school teacher who is actively involved in her community. "Children are our future. I have children, I work with children - so I understand and value the role of parish representative."



**Details of the Policy and Procedures are available on [dioceseofkerry.ie](http://dioceseofkerry.ie)**