

# The Passionists

## Safeguarding Statement

The Passionists of St. Patrick's Province are committed to creating a safe, healthy and inclusive environment for all, particularly, the children and young people with whom we work. The participation of children and young people is valued and encouraged by all Passionists in their pastoral ministry and in activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development. The Passionists recognize the dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable adults and are committed to their support and safeguarding. The Passionists undertake to ensure through best practice to create a safe environment for children and young people and to ensure their protection from all forms of abuse. All personnel (including clergy, religious, staff and volunteers) have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment.

The Passionists are committed to:

1. Best practice in ensuring the safeguarding of children and young people, protecting their rights and promoting their welfare.
2. Minimizing risks in order to safeguard the interests of children and young people.
3. Ensuring that all Passionists, are carefully selected, trained, supported and supervised.
4. Ensuring that all staff and volunteers, are carefully recruited, trained, supported and supervised.
5. Ensuring that all Passionists, are aware of, trained in and work to the Code of Behaviour for working with Children
6. Ensuring that all relevant staff and volunteers are aware of, trained in and work to the Code of Behaviour for working with Children
7. Supporting all victims of abuse.
8. Reporting concerns to statutory agencies who need to know and involving parents, carers, children, and young people appropriately; and working closely with statutory authorities to ensure that all allegations of abuse are dealt with justly and promptly.

### Risk Assessment

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
Priests working alone	Code of Behaviour with children
Children using Passionist premises	Use of Premises Policy

Members or others, may be unaware of their responsibility, or not supported, to report concerns that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting thresholds and procedures are set out in procedures document and mandated persons and relevant staff/volunteers are obliged to attend training</li> <li>• DLP available to provide advice, guidance and support</li> <li>• Joint reports will be made by diocesan DLP/ deputy DLP and Mandated Persons, where appropriate.</li> </ul>
Children on Retreat	Code of Behaviour with Children School Reporting Procedures

### Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*, and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. The Safeguarding Statement has also been drawn up in line with the Passionist policies and procedures and the NSBCCCI Standards for Safeguarding. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children;

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against Members/staff/volunteers;
- Procedures for the safe recruitment and selection of Members;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of Leaders to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Photography and video Policy
- Code of behaviour for Leaders and children
- Complaint procedure
- The Provincial is responsible for the collation and maintenance of the list of Mandated Persons working in the service.
- The Relevant Person for the Passionists will be the Safeguarding Advisor.

All procedures are available upon request.

### IMPLEMENTATION

We recognise that the implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm when we are working with them.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019, and every two years thereafter or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed 

Fr J. Sweeney CP, Provincial

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For queries, please contact: Suzanne Phelan, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.