

ARCHDIOCESE OF ARMAGH



Keeping our children safe – a short guide for parents/carers

The Past

- Serious harm was caused to many of our most vulnerable children while they were placed in the care of church personnel.
- The Church acknowledges this and wants to make sure that this is not allowed to happen again.

Addressing these issues

- Under the leadership of +Cardinal Seán Brady, a robust strategy for safeguarding has been put in place including:
 - Establishment of a Safeguarding Committee;
 - Establishment of an expert Advisory Panel;
 - Partnership working with the PSNI, An Garda Síochána, Health and Social Care Services and the Health Service Executive;
 - Appointment of a Safeguarding Director;
 - Appointment of a Training Coordinator;
 - Comprehensive Safeguarding Policies and Procedures;
 - Stringent vetting processes;
 - Archdiocese-wide safeguarding training;
 - Appointment of two Designated Officers to deal with allegations, concerns and the provision of support.
- See overleaf for contact details of Designated Officers.
- Archdiocese Safeguarding Policy and Procedures are available at:
www.armagharchdiocese.org/safeguarding

(please turn over)

What can parents do?

We now know that safeguarding has to be everyone's business. As parents/carers, you have a special role to play. You should:

- ✓ Ensure that you read the policies relating to safeguarding;
- ✓ Ensure that your child arrives at the time specified for whichever church activity they are involved in;
- ✓ Ensure that your child is picked up as soon as the activity finishes;
- ✓ Do not be afraid to check that all adults who have regular, unsupervised contact with your child have been vetted and have attended safeguarding training provided by the Archdiocese in keeping with Diocesan policies;
- ✓ Above all, listen to your child(ren) and if they have concerns or make a disclosure of inappropriate contact or behaviour, call the safeguarding Designated Officers.
- We all need to continue to ensure that the Catholic Church in Ireland is a safe place for children and vulnerable individuals.
- By working together, we can make sure that this continues to be the case.

Diocesan Designated Officers

The Archbishop has appointed two Diocesan Designated Officers who can be contacted with regard to any safeguarding concerns relating to children, young people or vulnerable adults on the numbers below:

Mr Aidan Gordon

**Tel: (028) 37525592 (NI)
(048) 37525592 (ROI)**
**Mob: 07841101687 (NI)
0044 7841101687 (ROI)**

Mrs Eleanor Kelly

**Tel: (028) 37525592 (NI)
(048) 37525592 (ROI)**
**Mob: 07584323138 (NI)
0044 7584323138 (ROI)**

A more detailed booklet is available from your Parish Safeguarding Representative or at www.armagharchdiocese.org/safeguarding