

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING TRUST?

It is the policy of the Church of Ireland to set standards for the welfare of all children and young people sharing in its ministry with the view to protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Each parish is expected to implement this policy and all those working with children and young people are required to know and work within the code.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE IN THE PARISH?

The rector appointed a parish panel of five parishioners back in 1997 to assist him. The panel, whose names and contact numbers can be found at the rear of this document, received training and have set about meeting with the various organisations, providing training materials, establishing procedures and examining safety within the parish buildings. They have also examined methods of encouraging safe practice for those working with children and young people. The Panel members are all experienced in the field of childcare, are dedicated to this ministry and meet regularly.

SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES

UNDERTAKEN:-

- Setting up a database of all youth leaders/workers.
- Organising a series of information/training sessions for leaders/organisations.
- Creating a code of conduct, and various childcare policies.
- Provision of first aid courses and first aid kits.
- The undertaking of various safety and security measures.
- Meeting Police and Social Services representatives.
- Setting up fire drill procedures.
- Drawing up job descriptions and formal assessment of new appointments.

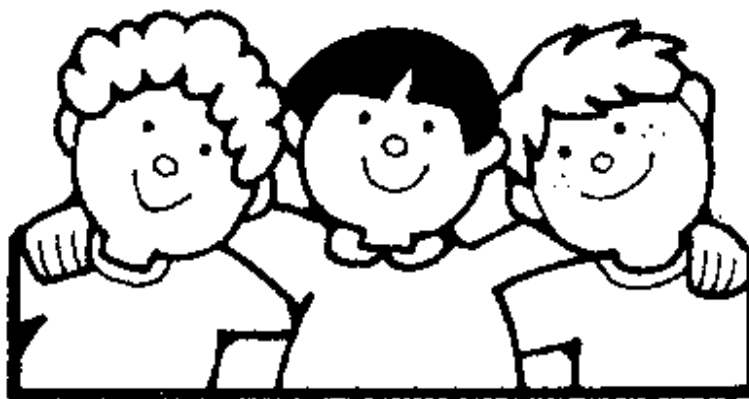


MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The panel reports to the Select Vestry, annual Vestry meeting and has been evaluated by the General Synod Board of Education. Mr Christie Colhoun is the liaison person with the Select Vestry.

PRINCIPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

In our ministry with children and young people a tremendous amount of good work is undertaken by excellent, dedicated adults. The purpose of the Code of Good Practice is to affirm this, to support what is already good, and to improve current practice to safeguard children and young people from abuse, and safeguard all workers against unfounded allegations of abuse.



- Promote general welfare, health and development of children and young people.
- Strive to protect children and young people from abuse.
- Recognise rights of children, young people and workers.
- Raise awareness of abuse.
- Adopt clear methods of recruiting and selecting staff.
- Plan work of organisations to minimise opportunities for children and young people to suffer harm.
- Establish links with parents and other organisations.
- Develop effective procedures to deal with accidents and complaints.

RECOGNISING, RESPONDING AND REPORTING ABUSE

Parents and those working with children and young people should be aware of the range of abuse – emotional, sexual, physical and neglect – to which some children and young people may be subject.

Should leaders, parents or children and young people have concerns about safety or feel that abuse has occurred then they should feel confident to contact the parish panel or appropriate agencies.

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:-

Revd M McConnell	077 5954 5932
John Nicholl	2564 4264
Judith Orr	2564 5736
Derek Bell	2565 2595
Oliver Reid	2565 5439
Sandra Duke	2564 3142

NSPCC (Child protection help line)	080 8800 5000
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Police C.A.R.E. Unit (Child Abuse Rape Enquiry)	101
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Children's Services – Gateway Service Covers whole of Northern Trust including Ballymena	030 0123 4333
Alternative Line if unavailable (Monday – Friday 9 am to 5 pm)	028 9442 4459
After 5 pm, weekend and Bank Holidays	028 9504 9999

