

# The Jesuit Policy for Safeguarding Children



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## Contact Details

### Local Representative:

**Designated Liaison Person:** Mike Drennan, SJ

**Tel:** 01 805 7208  
/ 087 647 5220

*(The Designated Officer is the province delegate for Safeguarding Children.)*

**Assistant Designated Liaison Person:** Mr. Joe Greenan **Tel:** 01 498 7333  
/086 856 3526

### An Garda Síochána

Dublin – Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit

**Tel:** 01 666 3435

Contact your local Garda station.

See a list of Garda Stations on the Garda website

**Web:** [www.garda.ie/Stations](http://www.garda.ie/Stations)

### PSNI

Police Service of Northern Ireland

**Tel:** 0845 600 8000

**Web:** [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

### Health Service Executive (HSE)

Contact your local Community Care Area

**Tel:** 1850 24 1850

**Web:** [www.hse.ie/eng/services](http://www.hse.ie/eng/services)

### Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)

Contact your local Health and Social Services Board (Eastern, Northern, Southern or Western)

**web:** [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/child\\_protection\\_guidance](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/child_protection_guidance)

### National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland

**Tel:** 01 505 3124 (Office)

**Web:** [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie)

Director : Mr Ian Elliott

**Tel:** 01 505 3018

### Childline

Childline provides a 24-hour listening service for all children up to the age of 18.

**Tel:** 1800 66 66 66

**Web:** [www.childline.ie](http://www.childline.ie)

### Towards Healing

A caring organization for those who have been abused.

**Tel:** From the Republic of Ireland 1800 303 416

**Tel:** From Northern Ireland 0800 096 3315

**Web:** [www.towardshealing.ie](http://www.towardshealing.ie)

### One in Four

Offers a voice to and support for women and men who have experienced sexual abuse and/or sexual violence and also to their family and friends.

**Tel:** 01 662 4070

**Web:** [www.oneinfour.org](http://www.oneinfour.org)

### The Samaritans

Samaritans provides confidential non-judgmental emotional support, 24 hours a day for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair.

**Tel:** 1850 60 90 90

### Irish Society for The Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC)

29 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2

The ISPCC's vision is to see an Ireland where all children are heard and valued.

**Tel:** 01 676 7960

**Web:** [www.ispcc.ie](http://www.ispcc.ie)

### Catholic Youth Care

Arran Quay, Dublin 7

Provider of services to youth in the Dublin area, CYC promotes personal, physical, social and spiritual development.

**Tel:** 01 872 5055

**Web:** [www.cyc.ie](http://www.cyc.ie)

## Introduction

This Policy and Procedures document has been devised to direct all Jesuit Communities and Organisations on the safeguarding of children<sup>1</sup> with whom they interact. Every Jesuit, employee and volunteer is required to comply with this policy. Every Jesuit Community and Organisation is required to comply with this policy. The Policy and Procedures outlined are based on the principles and guidance set out in:

*Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance Document for The Catholic Church in Ireland (2009).*

This guidance is, in turn, based on the civil guidelines of the two jurisdictions on the Island of Ireland.

The Policy and procedures comply with Children First 2011 (National Guidance).

Irish Jesuits and those who work with them in Jesuit Organisations and activities seek to inspire and empower people to find God in their daily lives. Respect for the dignity and integrity of every person is a fundamental principle of Jesuit Organisation.

A particular requirement of this principle is the recognition of the right of all children to be respected, nurtured, cared for and protected. This right is embedded in Gospel values, in international law and in domestic law. Arising from this, the Irish Jesuit Province has adopted a comprehensive set of Safeguarding Children policies and procedures.

This booklet has as its over-riding concern the safety and welfare of all children who are involved in any way in activities of the Irish Jesuit Province. The booklet includes procedures for the creation of safe environments for children, which includes prevention of abuse. It incorporates best practice for the prevention of child abuse and for an appropriate response where abuse is alleged or suspected.

A further concern in developing these procedures is to create a secure and supportive atmosphere in which those who have suffered abuse in the past can be assured of a sensitive, caring and compassionate response, and should be offered appropriate pastoral care for them and their family.

The procedures are concerned with ensuring that the rights in natural justice of a person who is accused of abuse are respected, and that appropriate pastoral care is provided for them and their family.

## Overview

**Section 1** sets out our commitment to protecting and promoting children's rights.

**Section 2** details the role of the Designated Liaison Person and the Local Safeguarding Representative.

**Section 3** gives practical advice and templates in respect of managing an allegation or suspicion.

**Section 4** is an overview on recruitment procedures and policies.

**Section 5** details our commitment to training.

**Section 6** ensures the management of the procedures and policies that are in place.

**Section 7** details appropriate use of social media.

1. The policy applying to children also applies to young persons and vulnerable adults

**We draw on the seven standards and guidance from the national document 'Safeguarding Children' as follows:-**

## **The Guidance Document (Safeguarding Children) for the Catholic Church is a standards based approach. There are 7 standards**

### **1. A written policy on keeping children safe is required:**

Each child shall be cherished and affirmed as a gift from God with an inherent right to dignity of life and bodily integrity which shall be respected, nurtured and protected by all. Everyone in our organisation has an obligation to ensure that the fundamental rights of children are respected.

These guiding principles inform this policy. The policy has been written to ensure that

- we take every possible measure to prevent abuse.
- none of its personnel or volunteers engages in behaviour that could allow abuse to occur or actions that could be misinterpreted by children, their families or other adults as constituting or leading to abuse.

### **2. Procedures — how to respond to safeguarding Children allegations and suspicions:**

Children have a right to be listened to and heard: Church organisations must respond effectively and ensure any allegations and suspicions of abuse are reported both within the Church and to civil authorities.

### **3. Preventing harm to children:**

(Create safe environments, with safe recruitment, vetting, codes of behaviour & safe activities). Children should have access to good role models they can trust, who will respect and nurture their spiritual, physical and emotional development. They also have a right to an environment free from abuse and neglect.

### **4. Training and education for keeping children safe:**

All Church personnel should be offered training in Safeguarding Children to maintain high standards and good practice.

### **5. Communicating the Church's safeguarding message:**

Children are welcomed, cherished and protected in a manner consistent with their central place in the life of the Church.

### **6. Access to advice and support:**

Those who have suffered child abuse should receive a compassionate and just response and should be offered appropriate pastoral care to rebuild their lives. Those who have harmed others should be helped to face up to the reality of abuse, as well as being assisted in healing.

### **7. Implementing and monitoring the standards:**

To keep children safe, policies, procedures and plans have to be implemented across all Church organisations. Checks are needed to ensure this is happening consistently. The views of those involved inside and outside of Church organisations can help to improve the effectiveness of any measures undertaken.

**(See Appendix 1 for Helpful Audit Checklist)**

## **Changes in legislation to Children First Guidelines (now called Children First: National Guidance)**

### **The definitions of abuse have been expanded:**

1. The list of what constitutes '**physical abuse**' has been expanded to include slapping, observing violence and 'allowing or creating a substantial risk of significant harm to a child' (CF p9)
2. There is express reference to and acknowledgement of the harm caused to children by exposure to domestic violence, which is included in the definition of **emotional abuse**. Exposure to inappropriate or abusive material through technology is also included for the first time.
3. There have been two additions to **signs and symptoms of neglect**
  - Inattention to basic hygiene
  - Failure to provide adequate care for the child's developmental problems (CF p 70)
4. **Bullying** is seen as possible abuse
5. There is now special mention of Especially Vulnerable Children which includes children in residential settings and homeless children as well as other vulnerabilities.
6. There is reference to Peer Abuse
7. There is reference now to Fatal Child Abuse
8. All people working who are working with children will have a statutory duty to comply with Children First: National Guidance
9. All those working with children need to be vetted by the Garda Vetting Unit
10. Retrospective disclosures are addressed, and national helpline details provided

### **Responsibilities of Organisations:**

- Must comply with Children First
- Must share relevant information in the interests of children
- Must cooperate with other relevant services in the best interests of the child
- Must attend necessary meetings
- All organisations, public or private providing services for children or that is in regular direct contact with children should:
  - Ensure best practice in the recruitment of staff or volunteers, which includes garda vetting, taking up references, good HR practices in interviewing, including training, probation and ongoing supervision and management.
- Ensure that staff members or volunteers are aware of how to recognise signs of child abuse or neglect

A companion document to Children First: National Guidance has been published as an aide, it is the Welfare Practice Handbook.

## Some Definitions

For the purposes of this document and in line with legislation<sup>2</sup>, a child is defined as any person under the age of eighteen years. A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 or older who by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness may be unable to take care of him or herself against 'significant harm' or 'exploitation'. The term vulnerable adult may include a person with:

- a learning disability; a physical disability; a sensory impairment; impaired mental health; dementia; acquired brain injury; a drug or alcohol problem; certain types of physical illness; or
- a person who is frail due to age or other factors.

## Definition of Abuse

**Abuse** is a violation of a person's fundamental right to respect and to bodily integrity by any other person or persons. Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. Child abuse is generally categorised into four broad groups: neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. A child may be subject to more than one form of abuse during his or her childhood.

**Neglect** can be defined in terms of an omission, where the child suffers significant harm or impairment of development by being deprived of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation, supervision and safety, attachment to and affection from adults or medical care. Neglect includes inattention to basic hygiene and failure to provide adequate care for the child's developmental problems

Neglect generally becomes apparent in different ways over a period of time rather than at one specific point. It is the persistent failure to meet a child's physical, emotional and/or psychological needs that is likely to result in significant harm.

**Physical abuse** Physical abuse of a child is that which results in actual or potential physical harm from an interaction, or lack of interaction, which is reasonably within the control of a parent or person in a position of responsibility, power or trust. There may be single or repeated incidents. (*Children First, 2011, p.8*). It includes shaking, use of excessive force, hitting, slapping, observing violence and 'allowing or creating a substantial risk of significant harm to a child misuse of medication or misuse of restraint.

**Emotional abuse** occurs when a child's need for affection, approval, consistency and security are not met and where a child is subjected to physical or sexual abuse or to bullying. Emotional abuse takes account of the harm caused to children by exposure to domestic violence and to exposure to inappropriate or abusive material through technology. It occurs in the relationship rather than in a specific event or series of events.

**Sexual abuse** occurs when a child is used by another person for his or her sexual gratification or sexual arousal, or for that of others. (*Children First, 2011, p.9*)

Children First 2011 includes the following under the term Abuse; Bullying, Peer Abuse, Fatal Child Abuse and Especially Vulnerable Children which includes children in residential settings and homeless children as well as other vulnerabilities.

2. In Ireland, the Child Care Act 1991 defines a child as any person under the age of 18 years, excluding a person who is or who has been married. Young persons are similarly defined.



## Indicators of Abuse:

### Neglect:

Child neglect should be suspected in cases of:

- Abandonment or desertion.
- Children persistently being left alone without adequate care and supervision.
- Malnourishment, lacking food, inappropriate food or erratic feeding.
- Lack of warmth or adequate clothing.
- Inattention to basic hygiene.
- Exploited, overworked.
- Lack of protection and exposure to danger, including moral danger or lack of supervision appropriate to the child's age.
- Persistent failure to attend school.
- Non-organic failure to thrive, i.e. child not gaining weight due not only to malnutrition but also to emotional deprivation.
- Failure to provide adequate care for the child's medical problems.

*(Children First 2011, p.70)*

### Emotional Abuse

Some indicators of emotional abuse that exist in the relationship between a parent/ carer and the child include:

- Lack of comfort and love
- Lack of praise and encouragement
- Lack of emotional connection
- Serious over-protectiveness

(Our Children's First - A Parent's Guide to National Child Protection Guidelines, Barnardos, 2010, p.15)

### Physical Abuse

Unsatisfactory explanations, varying explanations, frequency and clustering for the following events are high indices for concern regarding physical abuse:

- bruises, fractures, swollen joints;
- burns/scalds;
- abrasions/lacerations;
- hemorrhages (retinal, subdural);
- damage to body organs;
- poisonings – repeated (prescribed drugs, alcohol);
- failure to thrive;
- coma/ unconsciousness; death.

There are many different forms of physical abuse, but skin, mouth and bone injuries are the most common.

### Sexual Abuse

- Overly affectionate behaviours.
- Injuries to anal/genital area, STDs, pregnancy.
- Sexualised drawings or play.
- Having unexplained sums of money.
- Changes in usual demeanour.
- Depression, self-mutilation, running away.
- Fear of changing clothes in public.
- Regressed behaviour patterns, such as thumb sucking, recourse to old teddy bears etc.
- Promiscuity, provocative behaviours/acts .
- Using sexualised language inappropriate to age.

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# **Society of Jesus**

## **Irish Province**

### **Child Safeguarding Policy**

We are committed to the Gospel values that cherish and safeguard children, as well as protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm or neglect.

We endeavour to do this by:

- ◆ Circulating our Policy and Procedures to personnel in Jesuit Communities and Organisations (Jesuits, employees and volunteers).
- ◆ Raising awareness of this important area, especially among all those who work directly with children, regarding:
  - The values we hold in safeguarding children
  - Advice and training in safe management practices
  - The importance of familiarising all with our Policy & Procedures in Communities and Organisations.
- ◆ Reporting Safeguarding Children concerns to the civil authorities without delay.

### **Jesuits out of ministry**

Jesuits who are prohibited from ministry because of allegation(s) made against them are to abide by the policies and procedures of this document and must also abide by any direction made by the Provincial or Superior regarding restriction of ministry/ residence or precepts placed on them.

### Some Basic Guidelines

1. Each Jesuit Community and Jesuit Organisation in Ireland:
  - ◆ Recognises that Jesuits and Jesuit Organisations have a special duty to provide a safe environment in which the dignity and rights of children are respected and their well-being is promoted.
  - ◆ Recognises that the welfare of children and young people is of paramount importance and commits itself to implementing this Safeguarding Children Policy.
  - ◆ Co-operates with parents and guardians and relevant agencies in promoting the well-being of children and young people.
  - ◆ Responds in accordance with the guidance set out in Safeguarding Children; Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland (2009) to any concern about the safety of children that comes to the attention of Jesuits or employees or volunteers in Jesuit organisations.
2. In every Jesuit Community and Organisation, children are to be under supervision at all times.
3. Young people under eighteen will not be employed by a Jesuit Community or Jesuit organization. The person in charge of any Jesuit organisation directly involved with children has the responsibility to ensure that proper recruitment practices; the provision of training; adequate supervision; the support of employees and volunteers, as well as the review of practices, are put in place.
4. Those under the age of eighteen may be accepted as volunteers, provided there is adequate supervision in place.
5. The Local Safeguarding Representative within each Jesuit Community or Jesuit Organisation has a responsibility to ensure that all allegations and suspicions of abuse are brought to the attention of the Province's Designated Liaison Person without delay.
6. The Designated Liaison Person has the responsibility to inform the statutory authorities (An Garda Síochána and the HSE in the Republic of Ireland; the PSNI and the Health and Social Services Trust (DHSSPS) in Northern Ireland) of allegations or suspicions of child abuse. Jesuit Organisations subject to Government Department guidelines, such as primary and post primary schools, will follow the procedures outlined in those guidelines.
7. In the event of a safeguarding complaint, whether current or historical, a pastoral response to the alleged victim and to the alleged perpetrator will be provided.
8. The policy is reviewed, as a minimum, every three years, and is adapted whenever there are significant changes in the organisation or in legislation.
9. A review of the implementation of this policy will take place each year as part of the annual Provincial Visitation review.

## **Our Commitment to Protecting & Promoting Children**

**In the light of the teaching of the Church, civil legislation and guidance, the Society of Jesus is committed to:**

- Cherishing and safeguard children
- Demonstrating that the right of the child to protection from harm is paramount
- Fostering best practice
- Demonstrating accountability through establishing effective structures
- Supporting Jesuit Communities and Organisations' personnel in safeguarding children
- Establishing safe recruitment and vetting practices with the aim of ensuring that those appointed have the appropriate motivation and skills to undertake the work for which they are recruited and to prevent the recruitment of those who might pose a risk to children.
- Maintaining codes of behaviour – having clear guidelines that set out what is and is not acceptable behaviour as an essential part of safeguarding children.
- Operating safe activities for children – helping ensure they can play and learn in a safe environment.
- Reporting concerns, allegations or suspicions of child abuse to the civil authorities.

## Code of Good Behaviour

### Factsheet 1b (1 of 2)

**It is important that all those working in Jesuit Organisations, including Jesuits, employees, volunteers should:**

- Treat all children (with extra sensitivity to those with special needs) in a manner that fully respects their dignity and rights
- Provide, in their own behaviour, an example of good conduct at all times
- Operate within the Jesuit principles, guidance and specific procedures in relation to safeguarding children
- Respect each child's boundaries
- Help children develop an awareness and understanding of their own rights and a respect for the rights of others
- Provide children with information as to how they can seek help if they have a problem and from whom.
- Be visible to others when working with children
- Be accompanied – children should be accompanied by two adults or where only one adult is available, in a place not open to public view, an open door policy will be implemented.
- Challenge and report behaviour that is abusive or potentially abusive
- Develop a culture where children can talk openly about their contacts with staff and others.

**In general, it is inappropriate for Jesuits employees and volunteers in Jesuit Communities and Organisations to:**

- Spend excessive time alone with children away from others
- Take children to his or her own home.
- Use alcohol, tobacco or non-prescriptive drugs when in the company of children, nor should they be offered to those under 18 years.

**Jesuits employees and volunteers in Jesuit Communities and Organisations must never:**

- Hit or otherwise physically assault or abuse a child
- Develop sexual relationships with a child
- Engage in inappropriate conversations with children.
- Develop relationships with children which could be deemed to be in any way exploitative or abusive
- Act in ways that may be abusive or may place a child at risk of abuse.

## **Factsheet 1b (2 of 2)**

**Jesuits employees and volunteers in Jesuit Communities and Organisations must avoid actions or behaviour that could be construed as poor practice or potentially abusive. For example, they should never:**

- Use language, make suggestions or offer advice which is inappropriate, offensive or abusive
- Behave physically in a manner which is inappropriate or sexually provocative
- Have a child or children with whom they are working stay overnight at their home unsupervised
- Sleep in the same room or bed as a child with whom they are working
- Do things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves
- Condone, or participate in, behaviour of children which is illegal, unsafe or abusive
- Act in ways intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade children
- Exclude or discriminate against particular children or show favour towards particular children.

### **Care for those with Special Needs**

Research has shown that children with special needs are more vulnerable and consequently more at risk of becoming victims of abuse for reasons such as:

- Poor communication skills
- Limited sense of danger
- Need for intimate care
- Lack of mobility and greater reliance on adults
- Need for attention, friendship or affection
- Limited assertiveness and poorer self-confidence
- Limited understanding of sexuality or sexual behaviour
- Fear of not being believed

Each Jesuit Community and Organisation need to ensure that the personal safety needs of all children with special needs are adequately met with due regard to the specific vulnerabilities of individual children.

### **The Role of the Local Safeguarding Representative**

It is the responsibility of each Superior/ Rector/ Director/ CEO to ensure that a person is assigned to the role of Local Safeguarding Representative. This person promotes the safeguarding of children within that community or organisation. They act as the point of contact and liaise with the Designated Liaison Person as necessary. *(One person can fulfil this role for a number of smaller Jesuit Communities or organisations).*

This Local Safeguarding Representative should contact their Director of Work (if applicable) and the Designated Liaison Person if an allegation or suspicion is raised.

Local Safeguarding Representatives will be provided with induction, support and regular training.

**The role of the Local Safeguarding Representative will be to promote the safeguarding of children by:**

- Raising awareness of what safeguarding is
- Disseminating information on The Jesuit Policy for Safeguarding Children
- Ensuring that any activities operate in a manner which ensures the safety and well-being of the children involved (See section 6 - Good Management Practices)
- Ensuring that those responsible for running activities are aware of safe procedures. It is vital that the person who receives the allegation, or who suspects abuse, records in writing, as accurately as possible, what has been revealed and reports any incident that causes concern to the Local Safeguarding Representative (see Factsheet 3A and Appendix 2)
- Ensuring that the contact details of the Designated Liaison Person are widely

publicised. **The Local Safeguarding Representative shall:**

1. Ensure that the Designated Liaison Person is informed and is sent the relevant records as soon as possible.
  - In an emergency, ensure that the relevant authorities are informed.
  - Inform the Superior or Director of Work that an incident has occurred.
2. A record of the information received should be made and a log of actions taken. Entries should be made as soon as possible after the referral but least before the end of the day on which it was received. Entries must be timed, dated and signed by the author.
3. This record along with any notes taken to date and all relevant information should be passed to the Designated Liaison Person.

**The overall responsibility for safeguarding children remains with the person in charge, such as the Superior, Rector, Director or Chief Executive Officer.**

**See the factsheets in section 3 which set out how to handle an allegation or disclosure.**

## **The Role of the Designated Liaison Person**

**The Designated Liaison Person is the person appointed by the Society of Jesus in Ireland to receive allegations of child abuse. Having a thorough knowledge of the policy and correct procedure the Designated Liaison Person shall:**

1. Receive information about an allegation or suspicion of child abuse and ensure that the Director of Work is aware of it.
2. Ensure that the procedure about how to manage suspicions, allegations and disclosures of abuse involving Jesuits and employees and volunteers working in Jesuit undertakings has been followed, and to ensure a referral has been made to the statutory authority where appropriate.
3. Create a Safeguarding Children case file for every referral. This file will include a log of actions, events and information received using the dedicated form for this purpose. Entries should be made as soon as possible after an allegation has been made or a suspicion has arisen, but at the latest before the end of the day. Each entry must be timed, dated and signed by the Designated Liaison Person.
4. Take possession of any written records made by any person in connection with the case and place them on the Safeguarding Children Case File.
5. Explain the procedures for addressing the allegation or disclosure to the person who has raised the concern and that the data protection declaration is signed (by the child's parent or guardian where appropriate). This consent relates to this Safeguarding Children concerns process only – **consent is not required for the making of a referral to the H.S.E./ AN Garda Síochána/ PSNI/ DHSSPS.**
6. A Support Person should be offered to any person making an allegation or disclosure or raising a concern about actual or suspected abuse.
7. To contact emergency or appropriate services where a child appears to be at immediate and serious risk of harm. An immediate referral should be made to the Health and Social Services. Where appropriate, if Health and Social Services staff are not available, An Garda Síochána / PSNI should be contacted to ensure that **under no circumstances a child is left in a dangerous situation pending Health and Social Services intervention.** Consideration should, in all cases, also be given to whether an immediate referral is necessary in order to preserve, and safeguard against the possibility of any loss, deterioration or destruction of potential evidence or forensic evidence.
8. Make enquiries to identify the present and previous appointments of the respondent in order to establish whether there are any previous concerns about his/her practice, or any current grounds for concern in relation to the safety and well-being of children. (Again, in cases of emergency, see No 6) above)



9. In conjunction with the Superior or Director of Work, agree the process to meet with the respondent as soon as possible, unless the statutory authorities have requested that such a meeting be deferred.
    - This meeting takes place after contacting the relevant authorities.
    - The purpose of the meeting is to inform the respondent of the existence of a concern regarding child abuse and of the process being followed.
  - a) The respondent should be given information about his or her entitlement to seek legal advice (both civil and, where appropriate, canonical) and about the Safeguarding Children process.
  - b) The respondent should be informed that he or she is not obliged, in law, to respond or to furnish evidence, but that any statement provided will be taken into account in the statutory investigation.
  - c) As agreed above between the Designated Liaison Person and the Director of Work, the respondent should be informed of the nature and detail of the allegation or suspicion and the name of the person raising it.
  - d) Arrange for an Adviser to be offered to provide support for the respondent. Such an appointment will be made by the Designated Liaison Person in consultation with the person concerned and with the Provincial.
  - e) A written record of the meeting must be prepared, agreed with the respondent, signed and dated.
10. Implement the referral policy as outlined in Section 3 – How to manage suspicions, allegations and disclosures of abuse.
11. In cases where a Designated Liaison Person has a concern about a child but is not sure whether to make a referral, he or she should seek appropriate advice. He or she may consult the National Safeguarding Children Office, the Health and Social Services, DHSSPS and/or An Garda Síochána / PSNI on the appropriate steps to be taken. The Designated Liaison Person must keep a written record of the outcome of the consultation with the H.S.E./ AN Garda Síochána/ PSNI/ DHSSPS on the Safeguarding Children Case File.
12. Decisions not to refer a matter must always be in consultation with the National Safeguarding Children Office.
13. Ensure the availability of the Advisory Panel (see glossary - Appendix 3 for definition) , if required, and convene the Advisory Panel at an appropriate time.
14. Follow the advice given by H.S.E./ AN Garda Síochána/ PSNI/ DHSSPS where a Safeguarding Children concern has been referred to them. Allow the Health and Social Services/ DHSSPS / An Garda Síochána / PSNI to conduct their enquiries unimpeded.
15. Do not visit the family or contact family members without prior discussion with investigators.

## **Factsheet 2b (3 of 3)**

16. Maintain a dialogue with the Investigating Officer or Social Worker to monitor the progress of the case and act on any advice given. Details of contacts made should be recorded chronologically on the Safeguarding Children Case File.
17. Ask for an update from the H.S.E./ AN Garda Síochána/ PSNI/ DHSSPS about the outcome of their investigations; this request should be made in writing.
18. Conduct an internal investigation at the conclusion of any external investigation or where no such investigation takes place. Any internal investigation will be initiated in cases where Safeguarding Children concerns remain or where disciplinary action needs to be considered.
  - ◆ Such an investigation will gather and assess available information from all sources and witnesses. Every effort should be made, in consultation with the H.S.E./ AN Garda Síochána/ PSNI/ DHSSPS, to avoid the necessity to interview child witnesses for the purposes of disciplinary inquiries.
  - ◆ This investigation (which takes place after the statutory enquiries have been completed) should be conducted expeditiously, taking no longer than three months, wherever possible. In cases where there is a delay, and particularly where a Priest or religious has been temporarily removed from active ministry or an employee or volunteer has been suspended from duties, it is important to keep everyone informed of the progress of the investigation and to maintain records of such communications. There can be no excuse for a respondent being left uninformed and 'in limbo' indefinitely.

Where an investigation concerns Clergy or religious, the requirements of Canon Law will be observed. Canonical investigations will be carried out by the Society of Jesus for members of the Society after the statutory investigation is completed.

## **Managing Allegations and Disclosures of Abuse**

**Applies to:** All Jesuits, and all staff and volunteers of Jesuit Communities and Organisations

**Listen: follow the Advice notes in this factsheet**

**Record: ensure the Child Protection Recording form is completed (Appendix 2)**

**Refer: the matter to the Local safeguarding Representative**

The Society of Jesus is committed to promoting the safety, welfare and protection of children and takes seriously all disclosures, allegations and suspicions of abuse.

This procedure sets out the action that must be taken where there has been a disclosure, allegation or suspicion of child abuse, whether current or historical. The procedure applies whether the information regarding child abuse relates to Jesuit personnel (Jesuits, staff and volunteers in Jesuit organisations) or to a person not associated with a Jesuit organisation. Unacceptable behavior to children by adults or other children is to be dealt with in line with the procedures within this policy.

### **Initial Contact Procedure**

It is often very difficult for people to talk about abuse so it is important to make sure that you are patient, listen carefully and actively, and create a safe environment in which the person feels able to speak openly. This approach can help reassure the person who has made the difficult decision to come forward to make an allegation or voice a concern about abuse. It will also help ensure that relevant information is made available to those whose responsibility it is to investigate the alleged incident(s).

People may tell you about:

- ◆ abuse that is happening now;
- ◆ abuse that happened in the past;
- ◆ an allegation of abuse that has been made to them by a third party;
- ◆ having seen signs of abuse, such as an indication of physical injury;
- ◆ having witnessed something that has caused them to feel concerned that a child is being or has been abused.

Where information is given in person or by telephone:

1. Stay calm, take seriously what the person is saying, and reassure them that they have done the right thing in coming forward.
2. Listen carefully to what the person is saying; allow the person to continue at his or her own pace. Some facts are only ever told once. The information given must be fully and accurately recorded.

## Factsheet 3a (2 of 4)

3. If you find that the information disclosed shocks, distresses or disgusts you, do not allow these feelings to show. If you do, you may upset the person giving the information and inadvertently dissuade him or her from giving any further information.
4. Remember it is not your role to investigate, so do not ask probing, intrusive or leading questions. It is the role of the civil authorities to do this.
5. Check that you have an accurate understanding of what was actually said. If necessary, ask the person to clarify. Do not suggest words, but use theirs.
6. Make no promises that cannot be kept. Do not promise 'not to tell anyone' or say 'you'll keep it a secret' but listen carefully to what is being sought. Information will be treated with all possible confidentiality.
7. Do not make any comments on the incident(s) being reported, and do not make any statement about believing or not believing what the person has said. Do not make any comments about the person or persons against whom the allegation is being made.
8. Be aware that a person's ability to recount his or her concern or allegation will depend on age, culture, nationality and upon any disability which may affect use of language and range of vocabulary.
9. Explain to the person concerned what will happen next, including the procedures for referral to the civil authorities. Give the person the contact details of the Designated Liaison Person in case he or she wishes to make direct contact with the Designated Liaison Person.

## Record Keeping

1. Whenever possible and practical, take notes during the conversation.  
Always ask permission to do this and explain the importance of recording all information.
2. Where it is not appropriate to make notes at the time, make a written record as soon as possible afterwards and in any case before the end of the day.
3. Use the **Child Protection Recording Form (Appendix 2)** template to record. As you will see, the following data will be required:
  - ◆ The time, date and location of where and when the allegation or disclosure was made to you.
  - ◆ The time(s), date(s) and location(s) of alleged incidences.
  - ◆ Record whether the allegation was made or the suspicion raised in person or by telephone or in writing.
  - ◆ Where the report is made in person, record the names of those who were present.
4. Further information required for the Child Protection Recording Form:
  - a. accurate identifying information, as far as it is known. This should include the name, address, telephone number and date of birth the person who raised the concern or made an allegation.
  - b. if a child raised a concern or made an allegation, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of their parent(s) or guardian(s) should be obtained and recorded.

## **Factsheet 3a (3 of 4)**

- c. the name of the individual against whom an allegation has been made or a concern raised, as well as any other identifying information.
  - d. the statement of the person who has made an allegation or voiced a suspicion, recording as far as possible, everything they have said regarding the alleged or suspected abuse.
    - Do not select what is to be recorded – a detail which may seem irrelevant may be in fact significant.
    - In so far as is possible, record the words the person themselves used in making the allegation or voicing their suspicion.
    - Record also any views or comments they expressed regarding the alleged or suspected abuse.
    - No assumptions or comments should be made regarding the intended meaning of the words used.
  - e. in the case of a suspicion of abuse, record full details about the circumstances that led to the suspicion, including relevant date(s).
  - f. record if action has already been taken on this allegation
  - g. have any views been expressed by the child's parent(s) or guardian(s) about the matter?
5. The record should be signed and dated by the author. This initial record will form the first entry in a file of information about the case which will be forwarded immediately to the Designated Liaison Person.
6. All original records, including rough notes, must be passed immediately to the Designated Liaison Person.
7. All Safeguarding Children records must be kept in a safe secure and locked filing cabinet.

## **Referral of Disclosures, Allegations and Suspicions**

1. All disclosures, allegations and suspicions of child abuse should be brought to the attention of the Local Safeguarding Representative without delay. The Representative will then liaise with the Designated Liaison Person as soon as possible. The Designated Liaison Person has responsibility for immediately reporting disclosures, allegations and suspicions of abuse to the statutory authorities (the HSE and An Garda Síochána in the Republic of Ireland and the PSNI and the local DHSSPS in Northern Ireland).
2. In cases of emergency, where a child appears to be at immediate and serious risk, a report should be made directly and without delay to the statutory authorities.  
  
(The Designated Liaison Person should be informed without any delay)

## Confidentiality

- The person who comes forward with a disclosure, allegation or suspicion of child abuse should be assured that the information will be treated with all possible confidentiality and that it will be revealed only to the statutory authorities with responsibility for safeguarding children and to those within the Jesuit organisation with specific responsibilities for safeguarding children.
- Respect and due regard to both parties will be shown both to the person making the complaint and the subject of the complaint.
- The person who encounters an allegation or suspicion of child abuse must not discuss this information with anyone other than those specified in these procedures.
- Where a person is told of a concern, allegation or suspicion of abuse it is necessary to tell the person who communicates this that you cannot keep such information secret.

## Additional Specific Guidance

- **Seal of Confession:** If you are a priest, you must be clear about the status of any conversation in which a disclosure of child abuse is made. Make sure there is no misunderstanding about whether the Seal of Confession applies.
- **Anonymous allegations:** Allegations or concerns about child abuse that are raised by a person who wishes to remain anonymous are to be treated carefully. Anxiety or fear may cause some people not to reveal their identity immediately. It is difficult to act on information unless at some point the name of the person raising a concern or making an allegation becomes known. The person raising the concern should be informed that anonymity will restrict the ability of professionals to access information or to intervene to protect a child. As much openness as possible should be encouraged.
- **Temporary work in another organisation:**
  - A Jesuit, an employee or a volunteer with a Jesuit organisation who is working on a temporary basis in another organisation (on a placement, for example) and who in the course of that work encounters a disclosure, allegation or suspicion of child abuse must report the matter to the Local Safeguarding Representative of that organisation.
  - In addition, the person must report to the Designated Liaison Person of the Jesuits the fact that he or she has encountered a child protection concern in the organisation in which he or she is temporarily working and that it has been reported to the Local Safeguarding Representative of that organisation.
- **Revelation by a person that they have abused:** Where a person reveals that he or she has abused a child, it is necessary to tell that person that you cannot keep such information secret, even if it relates to an incident many years previously. You must inform the person that you are required to refer the information to the Designated Liaison Person, who will follow the procedures for referral to the relevant statutory authorities.

**Please see Appendix 2 for the Child safeguarding Recording form**

## Responding to an Allegation by a Child

Children may tell an adult they are being abused if they feel they can trust this person. In doing so, they hope that you will act to stop the abuse happening, even if they ask you not to do anything with the information.

If a child begins to tell you about abuse,

**Do:**

- stay calm
- listen carefully and take what is being said seriously
- ask questions only if you are unclear what the child is saying
- allow the child to continue at his or her own pace
- reassure the child that, in disclosing the abuse, they have done the right thing
- tell them they are not to blame for the abuse
- let them know you will do what you can to help
- report the child's disclosure to the Local Safeguarding Representative immediately.  
Should the Local Safeguarding Representative be absent, take action by:
  - seeking advice from the Designated Liaison Person or the Safeguarding Children National Safeguarding Board Support Team.
  - Informing the Director / Superior/ Rector/ CEO of the allegation.
- as soon as possible, write down everything that you were told by the child, using their own words to describe the alleged abuse. Sign and date this record and pass it on to the Local Safeguarding Representative.
- if the disclosure involves the Local Safeguarding Representative
  - seek advice from the Designated Liaison Person or the Safeguarding Children National Safeguarding Board Support Team
  - Inform the Director / Superior/ Rector/ CEO of the allegation.

**Do not:**

- dismiss the concerns
- panic
- probe for more information or ask questions other than for clarification
- promise 'not to tell anyone' or say that you 'will keep it a secret'
- make any comment about the accused person
- speculate or make assumptions
- disclose to **anyone** other than the Designated Liaison Person or the Local Safeguarding Representative the fact that an allegation has been made

It is important to explain to the child that you cannot promise to keep secret the information you have been given. You should reassure the child that the information will be shared only with those have responsibility for dealing with problems of this kind.

**Remember it is not your role as the person who has received an allegation of abuse, or become suspicious that abuse may have occurred, to make any judgments or decisions in relation to the allegation or suspicion. That is a task for statutory Safeguarding Children agencies following a referral to them, by the Designated Liaison Person, of the allegation or suspicion.**

## **Allegations Against Personnel working overseas Procedure to apply**

1. The same procedure as outlined in Factsheet 3a will be applied.
2. The International Volunteer Co-ordinators will recommend that:
  - All volunteers register with their Embassy prior to departure and again with the Embassy or Consulate in the host country; this can be done via email contact.
  - In the case of Irish citizens, if there is no Irish Embassy or Consulate in the host country, it is recommended that they register with the British Embassy or Consulate.
3. It is recommended, as an extra precaution, that the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) be contacted in each host country prior to departure to arrange for a security briefing in the country and to notify of the intended presence of the group so that, in the event of any need of assistance, the services of UNDSS can be called upon.
4. The concepts of 'Safeguarding Children', 'Local Safeguarding Representatives' and 'Designated Liaison Persons' are reasonably evolved in developing countries. Every effort should be made prior to departure or at least upon arrival to ascertain who the relevant contact person would be in the event of an allegation or suspicion of abuse.
5. In all cases, the general procedure to apply in the case of arrest of a member of staff or volunteer overseas is to:
  - Contact the embassy of that person
  - Contact UNDSS (United Nations Department of Safety and Security)
  - Contact the Designated Liaison Person in Ireland.
6. Immediately on receipt of an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer, the trip co-ordinator with the assistance, as necessary, of the Local Safeguarding Representative will inform the nearest Irish Consulate or Embassy and take advice from that office as to the best way to proceed.
7. Care must be taken in liaising with authorities in the country in question, especially the police, in the interest of preserving the safety and presumption of innocence of the accused person.

### **Note:**

**The International Volunteer Co-ordinators and / or group leader will:**

- a) have a copy of the Jesuit Policy document for Safeguarding Children to hand
- b) secure the necessary contacts as outlined above.



## Recruitment notes for staff and volunteers

(Support documentation for recruitment is in Appendix 4)

The person in charge of any Jesuit Community or Organisation directly involved with children has the responsibility of ensuring that proper recruitment practices, and provision for training, supervision, support of employees and volunteers, as well as review of practices, are put in place.

**The person in charge will ensure good recruitment procedures by:**

1. **Defining the role** the individual is applying for (see Job Description template in Appendix 4b)
2. **Ensuring that applicants complete correct application forms** - prospective employees or volunteers applying for any posts of responsibility must complete application forms (*see 'Sample Application Forms' in Appendix 4 c and d*)
3. **Obtaining proof of identity** (*see appendix 4e*)
4. **Interviewing the individual**
  - Assessing the individual's experience of working with children and knowledge of safeguarding children issues
  - Assessing their commitment to promoting good practice
  - Assessing their ability to communicate with children, young people and vulnerable adults (i.e. be approachable). One way of doing this is to ask questions to examine how a person would respond to a particular scenario e.g. are they authoritarian or too relaxed in their approach.
  - Examples (*given by the Standards and Guidance document – resource 5*)
    - Tell us about any experiences that have been difficult for you when working with children and young people and how you handled them?
    - Tell us how you respond to aggression or young people who are especially challenging?
    - Tell us how you go about advising a young person about sexual matters?
    - How would you respond to a young person who tells you that they are being abused?
    - Tell us what you would do if a young person started sending you text messages unrelated to your work?
5. **Obtaining two references in writing** – reference should be sought only for preferred applicants – (*see sample reference form in Appendix 4f*)
6. Ensure that the applicant signs the Vetting Declaration Form .
7. **Checking for vetting procedures** – obtaining the individual's signed permission to enable the Jesuit Community/Organisation to request a vetting procedure (*see Appendices g and h*)
8. **Obtain correct approval of the person in charge** – for any appointment, whether paid or voluntary.

- 9. Setting a probationary period** (six months for staff and long-term volunteers).
- 10. Keeping correct Records:** It is required by law that the following records must be kept for one year after the selection process has been completed: Application Forms completed by all applicants; notes on the screening process; interview notes; and a record of the final selection decisions.
- 11. Knowing that young people under eighteen will not be employed** by a Jesuit Community or Jesuit organisation but may be accepted as volunteers, provided there is adequate supervision in place.
- 12. Initial training and periodic updates** for Safeguarding Children will be given to all personnel in Jesuit Communities/organisations.
- 13. All personnel will be jointly responsible** for ensuring that Safeguarding Children Policies are upheld and adhered to in Jesuit Communities / Organisations.
- 14. A copy of the Safeguarding Children Policy** will be given to all personnel and partner organisations, and will be given the opportunity to look for clarity on any aspect of this.
- 15. The policy is reviewed, as a minimum, every three years**, and is adapted whenever there are significant changes in the organisation or in legislation.
- 16. As part of the annual Provincial Visitation** a review of the implementation of this policy will take place each year.

## Training Needs

**In order to maintain high standards and good practice, all personnel should be offered training in safeguarding children.**

There are opportunities for all personnel to develop and maintain the necessary attitudes, skills and knowledge to keep children safe. Everyone who comes into contact with children has a role to play in their protection. To carry out this role confidently and effectively they need to be aware of safeguarding children issues and to have the necessary knowledge and skills to keep children safe.

**Criteria for maintaining standards and good practice:**

<b>Induction for all personnel</b> who work with children, covering the Jesuit policy and procedures on child protection, when they join Jesuit organisations.
<b>Training</b> is provided for keeping children safe. Regular opportunities to update their skills and knowledge should be provided.
<b>Training is provided to those with additional responsibilities</b> such as recruiting and selecting staff, dealing with complaints, disciplinary processes, managing risk or acting as a Local Safeguarding Representative.
<b>Training programmes are approved</b> by National Board for Safeguarding Children and updated in line with current legislation, guidance and best practice.

## Induction

An induction programme is in place to help the successful integration of a new employee or volunteer. Irrespective of whether a formal programme is attended, according to their role, each employee requires familiarisation with the ethos of the Society of Jesus, introductions to members of the Society and to colleagues, familiarisation with the way of proceeding in Jesuit organisations and explanations of day-to-day processes and human resource policies including: grievance and disciplinary procedures, dignity at work and also the introduction of the Jesuit Safeguarding Children policy. Familiarity with lines of management and supervision are particularly important along with clarification of their role and expectations of them.

On appointment, each person will be given:

- The name of the Local Safeguarding Representative and advised of the role of the Local Representative in relation to child protection procedures.
- They should also be given an overview of the Safeguarding Children policy for working with children and young people.

# The Jesuit Policy for Safeguarding Children

## **Factsheet 5 (2 of 2)**

### **Training**

All those working in Jesuit Communities or Organisations, whether as members of the Society, as staff or as volunteers, will be given training in child protection policies and procedures, including information about how to respond to suspicions and allegations of child abuse. To maintain high standards and good practice generally, training will be provided on an ongoing basis.

### **Ways of providing evidence of meeting an objective Training Standard**

- The following can be used to provide evidence that the Training Standard has been met: Copies of training plans or programmes with dates and times of implementation **U** Records of course attendance for all attendees
- Induction programmes and attendance documentation

## Developing Good Management Practices

The operation of thorough recruitment and training procedures as outlined in the previous sections will help to keep children safe, but other strategies should be put in place to minimise the possibility of them coming to harm.

### Safe Management Practices Involves:

Adopting safe management practices as outlined below:

- Supervising children in all activities
- Knowing how to deal with discipline and challenging behaviour
- Providing training for all workers on a regular and timely basis
- Putting in place appropriate supervision of, and support for, workers

### Safe Management Practices:

Safe management practices will not only enable an organisation to run smoothly and efficiently, but it will also help to minimise the possibility of accidents occurring and of harm being done to children. The following pointers should be considered:

#### 1. Know the children

- Have defined criteria for membership of the organisation
- Have a registration system for each child
- Keep a record in respect of each child, including parental consent form, medical details, any special needs and emergency contact telephone numbers

#### 2. Keep records

- Obtain a signed copy of the Employee Acceptance Form (Appendix 5) for all existing and new personnel (unless signed for in acceptance of letter of appointment).
- Keep a record of attendance at events and activities
- Keep an incident book recording incidents and accidents. Incidents and accident records should be reviewed regularly and any unusual patterns reported to senior management
- Keep a record of all complaints or grievances
- Retain completed consent forms.

#### 3. Know the workers

- Follow thorough recruitment and selection procedures as outlined in Section 4.
- Have a work schedule displayed so that everyone knows who is on duty
- Respond to any allegations or complaints made about workers

**4. Pay attention to health and safety matters making sure that**

- Any buildings being used are safe and meet required standards
- There is sufficient heating and ventilation
- Toilets, shower areas and washing facilities are up to standard
- Fire precautions are in place
- First aid facilities and equipment are adequate
- There is access to a phone
- Equipment is checked regularly
- Insurance cover is adequate.

**5. Supervising children in all activities**

Children are less likely to experience accidents or harm if they are supervised properly. Activities should be organised so that they maximise participation, fun and learning, but are also safe. It is important to ensure that:

- Children are not left unsupervised
- Adequate numbers of workers of both sexes are available to supervise the activities
- Recommended ratio of adults per number of children, remembering that there should be 1 additional staff member for every 10 children:

0 – 2 yrs	2 – 3 yrs	3 – 7 yrs	8 yrs & over
1 staff to 3 children	1 staff to 4 children	1 staff to 8 children (6 children for outdoor activities)	2 staff to 20 children (15 children for outdoor activities)

- At all times, workers should know where children are and what they are doing
- Constant adult supervision is required if using potentially dangerous equipment
- Dangerous behaviour is not allowed.

**6. Activities that involve staying away from home overnight require the following attention:**

- Safe methods of transport
- Adequate insurance, to cover all aspects of the trip
- Written parental consent (for each individual trip)
- Obtaining from parents and guardians any information which may be relevant to a child staying away from home overnight (information concerning allergies, medical problems, or special needs)
- Appropriate and well-supervised sleeping arrangements
- Respect for the privacy of children and young people in dormitories, changing rooms showers and toilets.

**7. Discipline and sanctions when dealing with challenging behaviour**

As far as possible,

- Disciplining of children should be in the form of positive reinforcement.
- Rules about discipline and sanctions should be agreed as part of the policy and accepted by all workers and children as a condition of becoming involved.
- Every Community or Organisation requires a policy on bullying that is communicated to all personnel and is implemented by everyone (*see Appendix 4i*).

Sanctions should be implemented consistently, fairly and firmly and not used as threat. Children should be helped to understand why sanctions are being imposed. When a sanction has been imposed, it is important that a child is able to feel that she or he is still valued.

Sometimes, children can be disruptive and their behaviour can be challenging. Such behaviour can put at risk the safety of the child himself or herself, as well as that of other children and of workers. Workers need to be trained and prepared for coping with disruptive behaviour. It is recommended that

- More than one worker is present when challenging behaviour is being dealt with
- A record is kept in an incident book, describing what happened, the circumstances, who was involved, any injury to a person or damage to property arising from the incident and how the situation was resolved.

**8. Supervision and support of workers**

Good supervision practice includes both formal and informal discussion, individual and team dialogue, all of which form part of a good performance management process and is summarised as:

- Reviewing operations and practice in the light of organisation's mission
- Regularly affording personnel the opportunity to raise questions, problems, or suggestions for change.
- Based on experience, assessing the need for change in policies, practice or training.

Performance Management provides for a documented review of workers so that they can be given recognition for the good work they are doing and helped to develop their skills further. Notes should be kept of discussions which takes place during supervision.

Supervisory and review considerations relevant to this policy are:

- Observation and assessment of the worker's attitude and competence in the role
- Observation of relationships between workers, and between workers and children.
- Observation of relationships between children.

Managers should be alert to any unusual incidents or activities that take place where workers may be putting themselves in vulnerable positions.

## Information Technology (I.T.) Policy and Safeguarding Children

### Use of computers, electronic communication and information technology:

Each Community or Organisation should review their Communications and Information Technology (I.T.) Policy to ensure it includes the following child protection considerations:

- Where a computer is used by more than one person, each person should be obliged to have a unique username and password, or where this is not possible, to maintain a signed record of the date, time and duration of their use of the computer.
- Where a computer can be accessed by children or young people, it should be accessible only through the use of a username and password unique to each child. Where this is not possible, the children or young people should be obliged to provide a signed record of the date, time and duration of their use of the computer.
- Computers which can be accessed by children or young people should always employ appropriate filtering software.
- All the computers in the offices of Jesuit Communities / Organisations should be monitored regularly to ensure that they are being used in accordance with the stated policy. Where there is any suspicion or doubt, a person with specialist knowledge of computer hardware and software should be asked to assess the purposes for which the computer has been used.
- Each Community or Organisation needs to assess the possible ways that children communicate with personnel, volunteers and each other, such as via the internet, mobile phones, email using digital and other electronic or information technology.
- It is important to develop guidance to reduce the risks to children that may arise in the course of their use of technology. Such risks include:
  - being groomed online by paedophiles
  - experiencing or perpetrating bullying
  - accessing or being exposed to inappropriate or harmful material
  - having their personal contact details accessed and circulated
  - having personal images uploaded and used without consent.
- Each Community / Organisation needs to consider how its personnel (Jesuits, employees and volunteers) uses images (such as photographs and film) of children in publications or on websites. Guidance needs to be developed to ensure that:
  - the content of photographs and film material is appropriate;
  - the consent of parents or guardians and of children to the use of an image is obtained and such consent is recorded
  - there is an agreed approach as to how children may be identified in photographs and other images likely to be published in print media or on the Internet
  - parents and children are aware of the way the image will be used to represent the organisation or activity
- any one-to-one photo sessions with children are supervised.



## **Responsibility for safeguarding Children and Maintenance of Records**

**The Superior/ Director/ Rector shall ensure that:**

1. An up-to-date Child Safeguarding Policy is in place.
2. Training is implemented for all relevant personnel (Jesuits, staff and volunteers).
3. Appropriate supervision is provided for personnel who are involved, in any capacity, in working with children or whose work brings them into contact with children.
4. Concerns regarding Safeguarding Children and allegations and suspicions of abuse are dealt with promptly and appropriately, in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy, in conjunction with the Local Safeguarding Representative.
5. Comprehensive records are maintained by:
  - Retaining all records in relation to the recruitment, training and supervision (including a signed Employee Acceptance Form for all personnel).
  - Ensuring all records in respect of allegations or suspicions of abuse go directly to the Designated Liaison Person.
6. Grievance, Discipline and Complaints Procedures are in place for all personnel.
7. Risks of child abuse are assessed and action is taken accordingly.

### **Recording of Information**

Where child abuse is alleged or suspected, it is vital that the person who receives the allegation, or who suspects abuse, records in writing, as accurately as possible, what has been revealed. This is necessary so that the information being passed to the Local Safeguarding Representative is an accurate record of what has been disclosed. The written record should include all the relevant information that has been disclosed or observed, including, for example, dates, times, names, locations and context.

**The Local Safeguarding Representative shall:**

1. Ensure that the Designated Liaison Person is informed and is sent the relevant records as soon as possible.
  - In an emergency, ensure that the relevant authorities are informed.
  - Inform the Superior or Director of Work that an incident has occurred.
2. A record of the information received should be made and a log of actions taken.

Entries should be made as soon as possible after the referral but least before the end of the day on which it was received. Entries must be timed, dated and signed by the author.
3. This record along with any notes taken to date and all relevant information should be passed to the Designated Liaison Person.

## Social Media

'Social media broadly defined consists of any online platform or channel for user generated content. By this definition, for example, WordPress, Sharepoint, and Lithium qualify as social media, as do YouTube, Facebook, blogs and Twitter. Social media more narrowly defined includes only channels for user-generated content, as distinguished from platforms, which are referred to as social technologies. By this definition, for example, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter are social media, and WordPress, Sharepoint and Lithium are social technologies.' - Joe Cothrel – Lithium Technologies, Inc.

The Irish Jesuit Social Media Policy is created to direct all Jesuit Communities and Organisations on the use of social media and social technologies. The policy applies to all those working in Jesuit Organisations (including Jesuits, employees and volunteers) and is effective at all times – both during and after work hours.

Those who work in Jesuit Organisations must be aware that any mention of the Jesuit Province, its Communities and Apostolates (whether in professional or personal use of social media) must be done in a responsible manner. It is vital that our people understand that all content associated with them must align with our values and professional standards. Also, our social media policy reiterates that loyalty extends to all forms of communication, both inside and outside the working environment.

Authority to set up any Social Media or Social Technology platform can only be given by the Provincial, his Delegate, a Director of an Apostolate or a Superior of a Jesuit Community.

**The objective.** The Irish Jesuit Province support the use of social media as a positive and safe resource for all to use. The world of social and digital media is a beneficial, enjoyable and engaging place. It is important that those who engage in this developing area do so in an educated and constructive manner.

**Specifying Branding Standards:** Any inclusion of information and/or our brand (colors, fonts, logos) should be represented in the social portals in line with the ethos of the particular Apostolate.

**Appropriate communication practices.** All those working in the Irish Jesuit Province should know how to communicate in the social portals, both on and off duty, to responsibly represent our ethos. Please be respectful at all times, and understand that comments, images, videos and other material posted on our social media pages may be removed in the event that such material is inappropriate or offensive.

**Please note: The Irish Jesuit Province will not tolerate any of the following on social media pages and action will be taken if found to be in breach:**

1. Defamatory material
2. Material infringing copyright or intellectual property rights
3. Material in breach of privacy or confidentiality obligation
4. Offensive, obscene or sexually violative material
5. Threatening, abusive or insulting statements likely to stir up hatred
6. Do not communicate with anyone underage.
7. Cyber bullying, emotional abuse and sexual abuse

# The Jesuit Policy for Safeguarding Children

## Factsheet 7 (2 of 2)

Those who use social media need to be conscious / aware of the risks involved and the consequences of not adhering to this policy.

### **Confidentiality**

During the course of work those working in the Jesuit province may learn information that may be private, sensitive and/or confidential. You must not, without specific written permission from those in charge, disclose any such private, sensitive or confidential information, from whatever source and however you may learn it, to any person or body.

The obligations imposed on you under this heading shall continue for the duration of your work in the Province and on an unlimited basis following the period in which you work, save where legal requirements demand the giving of information.

**Intellectual Property:** The Jesuit Province has an intellectual property right of whatever nature, including copyright (present and future), moral rights, trade-marks, design rights and database rights (whether or not any of these is registered and including any applications for registration of any such rights), know-how,

**Updating our policy.** The social media world changes by the minute. New tools and applications are introduced to social network users virtually every day. Therefore, our policy will evolve on a regular basis to keep pace with the changing social environment.

Training is available to expand on these issues, to help with social media and social technologies.

### **Some Helpful Guidance**

- 1) Adhere to the values of the Jesuit Apostolate or Community that you are in.
- 2) Be Responsible and conscious that you are communicating with a global audience.
- 3) Do not disclose confidential information – when in doubt do not post it.
- 4) Be respectful of all individuals, races, religions and cultures.
- 5) Respect boundaries e.g. do not speak on behalf of others or other organisations.
- 6) Postings should not include logos, trademarks or copy write material.
- 7) Do not post photos of others without their permission.
- 8) Respect the law and good codes of practice.
- 9) Don't plagiarise – give credit where credit is due.
- 10) Correct mistakes and incorrect data immediately.

We hope that all who use social media will enjoy using it and use it responsibly.

## Audit Checklists (standards 1-7) for Safeguarding Children Policy

### Standard 1: A written policy on keeping children safe

Reviewing Our Policy		In place	Proposed	Not in place	Date reviewed
<b>1</b>	Our organisation has a Safeguarding Children policy that is written in a clear and easily understandable way.				
<b>2</b>	The policy is approved and signed by the relevant leadership body of our organisation.				
<b>3</b>	The policy states that all relevant personnel are required to comply with it.				
<b>4</b>	The policy is subject to review at a minimum every three years and will be adapted whenever there are significant changes in our organisation or in legislation.				
<b>5</b>	The policy addresses Safeguarding Children in the different aspects of our work (for example within a building, in Community work, training programmes, pilgrimages, trips and holidays)				
<b>6</b>	The policy states how those individuals who pose a risk to children are managed.				
<b>7</b>	The policy clearly describes the understanding and definitions of abuse.				
<b>8</b>	The policy states that all current Safeguarding Children concerns must be reported to the civil authorities without delay.				
<b>9</b>	The Policy has been created at Province level. Where a separate policy document at any other level is necessary, it is a requirement that it be consistent with the Province policy and approved by the relevant authority before distribution.				

## Standard 2: Procedures – how to respond to Safeguarding Children allegations and suspicions

Review of Preventative Measures		In place	Proposed	Not in place	Date reviewed
<b>1</b>	There are clear, written Safeguarding Children procedures that provide step-by-step guidance on what action to take where there are allegations or suspicions of abuse of a child (current or historic).				
<b>2</b>	The Safeguarding Children procedures are consistent with legislation on child welfare and civil guidance for Safeguarding Children and are written in a clear and easily understandable way.				
<b>3</b>	There is a Designated Liaison Person with clearly defined responsibilities for Safeguarding Children at central level in the Society of Jesus in Ireland.  In every Jesuit Community and organisation in Ireland, there is a local Safeguarding Representative who has a clearly- defined role and specified responsibilities for Safeguarding Children.				
<b>4</b>	There is a process for recording incidents, allegations and suspicions and referrals and storing these securely, so that confidential information is protected and treated in a manner that complies with relevant legislation.				
<b>5</b>	There is a process for dealing with complaints made by adults and children about unacceptable behaviour towards children, with clear timescales for resolving the issues raised by the complaint.				
<b>6</b>	There is guidance on confidentiality and information-sharing which makes clear that the protection of the child is the most important consideration.				
<b>7</b>	The procedures include contact details for local statutory Safeguarding Children services (in the Republic of Ireland the local HSE manager and An Garda Síochána; in Northern Ireland the local DHSSPS and the PSNI).				

### Standard 3: Preventing harm to children

Review of Training		In place	Due by	Not in place	Date reviewed
<b>1</b>	There are policies and procedures for recruiting personnel and assessing their suitability to work with children.				
<b>2</b>	The safe recruitment and vetting policy is in line with best practice guidance. (see Factsheet 4 and Appendix 4)				
<b>3</b>	All those who have the opportunity for regular contact with children, or who are in a position of trust are required to complete a form declaring court convictions and to undergo other checks as required by legislation and guidance and all such information is properly assessed and recorded.				
<b>4</b>	Our organisation provides guidance on appropriate and expected standards of behaviour of adults towards children.				
<b>5</b>	There is guidance on expected and acceptable behaviour of children towards other children, including anti bullying policy.				
<b>6</b>	There are clear ways in which personnel (Jesuits, employees and volunteers) can bring to attention allegations and suspicions concerning unacceptable behaviour towards children by other personnel.				
<b>7</b>	Processes are in place for dealing with unacceptable behaviour by children; these processes to not involve physical punishment or any other form of degrading or humiliating treatment.				
<b>8</b>	Guidance to staff and children makes it clear that discriminatory behaviour or language in relation to any of the following is not acceptable: race, culture, the travelling community, age, gender, marital status, family status, disability, religion, sexuality or political views.				
<b>9</b>	Policies include guidelines on the personal care of children with disabilities, including appropriate and inappropriate touch.				
<b>10</b>	There is guidance on assessing all possible risks when working with children - especially in activities that involve time spent away from home.				
<b>11</b>	Guidance is in place to ensure that children participating in project and activities provided by Jesuit Communities and Organisations are adequately supervised and protected at all times.				
<b>12</b>	Guidelines exist for appropriate use of information technology (such as mobile phones, email, digital cameras, websites, internet etc.) to ensure that children are not exposed to abuse, exploitation or harm of any kind.				

## Standard 4: Training and education

Review of Training		In place	Proposed	Not in place	Date reviewed
<b>1</b>	All personnel (Jesuits, employees and volunteers) are inducted into our policy and procedures for Safeguarding Children.				
<b>2</b>	Those working with children are provided with appropriate training for keeping children safe and with regular opportunities to update their skills and knowledge.				
<b>3</b>	In addition to the Designated Liaison Person and Local Safeguarding Representative, training is provided for those with additional responsibilities such as recruiting and selecting staff, dealing with complaints, disciplinary processes or managing risk.				
<b>4</b>	Training is provided for Jesuits who are in formation.				
<b>5</b>	Training programmes are monitored by the Province and updated in line with current legislation, guidance and best practice.				

**Standard 5: Communicating the safeguarding message**

Reviewing Communications		In place	Proposed	Not in place	Date reviewed
<b>1</b>	The Safeguarding Children policy is openly displayed and available to everyone.				
<b>2</b>	Children are made aware of their right to be safe from abuse and who to speak to if they have concerns.				
<b>3</b>	All Jesuits and all employees and volunteers know the name and the contact details of the Designated Liaison Person.				
<b>4</b>	Personnel (Jesuits, employees and volunteers) are provided with contact details of local statutory Safeguarding Children services, (HSE and An Garda Síochána in the Republic of Ireland; the local DHSSPS and the PSNI in Northern Ireland) and of telephone help-lines.				
<b>5</b>	Our organisation establishes links with statutory Safeguarding Children agencies in order to keep children safe.				
<b>6</b>	Our organisation has an established communications policy which reflects a commitment to transparency and openness.				



**Standard 6: Access to advice and support**

Reviewing Support		In place	Proposed	Not in place	Date reviewed
<b>1</b>	Personnel with special responsibilities for keeping children safe have access to specialist advice, support and information on Safeguarding Children.				
<b>2</b>	Contacts have been established at a national and local level with the relevant Safeguarding Children and welfare agencies that can provide information, support and assistance to children and personnel.				
<b>3</b>	There is guidance on how to respond to and support a person who it is alleged has been the victim of child abuse, whether that person is a child or an adult abused in childhood.				
<b>4</b>	Information and appropriate support is provided to those who have experienced abuse.				
<b>5</b>	Appropriate support is provided to those who have perpetrated abuse to help them to face up to the reality of the abuse for which they are responsible and to prevent further abuse.				

**Standard 7: Implementing and monitoring the Standards**

Reviewing Implementation		In place	Proposed	Not in place	Date reviewed
<b>1</b>	There is a written plan showing the steps that will be taken to keep children safe, who is responsible for implementing these measures and when these will be completed.				
<b>2</b>	The organisation has made available the personnel and financial resources necessary for implementing the plan.				
<b>3</b>	Arrangements are in place to monitor compliance with Safeguarding Children policies and procedures.				
<b>4</b>	Processes are in place to enable children, as well as parents and guardians, make known their views on policies and practices for keeping children safe.				
<b>5</b>	A record of all incidents, allegations and suspicions of abuse is made without delay and is stored securely.				

## Recording form for Safeguarding Children (template)

### 1. Details of person completing the form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position \_\_\_\_\_

Jesuit Community or Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. About the disclosure

When was the disclosure made or concern expressed?

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

How was information received?

Telephone ☐ Letter ☐ email ☐ In Person ☐

Attach any written information to this form.

### 3. Details of person making disclosure or raising concern

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to alleged victim \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Details of alleged victim

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic origin \_\_\_\_\_

Language *(is interpreter/signer needed?)* \_\_\_\_\_

Disability \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs \_\_\_\_\_

Parish/ Order *(if applicable)* \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Parent or Guardian details** *(where appropriate)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address *(if different from above)* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Are they aware of the allegation and suspicion? Yes ☐ No ☐

**6. Details of alleged perpetrator**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to alleged victim \_\_\_\_\_

Position in Jesuit Organisation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address at time of alleged incident(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Details (if known) of current appointments (either paid or voluntary) or current living arrangements that bring this person into contact with children:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Any additional information

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### 7. Details of allegation or complaint

Date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Time(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Location(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Witnesses (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Does the alleged victim know this referral is being made? Yes ☐ No ☐

### 8. Action taken

Has the matter been referred to Designated Liaison Person? Yes ☐

No ☐ If yes, please state:

Date

Time

If no explain why

---



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Details of person to whom it was referred:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Designation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel

Email

## 9. Next Steps

### (Responsibility rests with the Designated Liaison Person)

What actions were agreed and by whom when the matter was referred

a) onto civil authority \_\_\_\_\_

b) onto the Provincial \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any immediate Safeguarding Children concerns? If so please record what they are and state what actions have been taken by whom to address them:

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## 10. Designated Liaison Person

**details:** Form completed Yes ☐

No ☐

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Date form sent

**(this form must be sent to the Designated Liaison Person for forwarding to the civil/statutory authorities)**

## Glossary

**Adviser** is a person appointed to offer support to a person who has had an allegation or concern raised against them.

**Advisory Panels** are consultative panels of not less than five people appointed by the Bishop of a diocese or by the leader of a religious congregation, to advise and assist during a Safeguarding Children process.

**Assessment of a child**, is any systematic process of assessing the needs, circumstances or progress of a child (or family) against defined norms, an established scale or standardised benchmarks, with the intention of understanding the child's needs (and the family's needs), circumstances or progress, in order to decide on appropriate further action (or to confirm that no additional help is required).

**Abuser, offender, perpetrator** are all words used to describe someone who poses a risk to children or young people. While it mostly refers to sexual abuse, the terms cover all forms of deliberate harm to children. Offender describes someone who has been convicted and found guilty of a criminal offence (See definition of Respondent below).

**Audit** is a word that is likely to be used in a number of contexts. It is commonly used to refer to an audit of a service or services, in other words, a systematic appraisal or critical evaluation of a service provider's practice and effectiveness. Implementing change to bring about service improvement is integral to such a process.

**Child** 'A child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.' (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 1, 1989)

**Child abuse** is a form of maltreatment of a child, such as:

- physical abuse, e.g. hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning
- sexual abuse, e.g. inappropriate physical contact and non-contact activities (including exposure to pornography)
- emotional abuse, e.g. excessively criticising, withholding love, humiliating or degrading treatment
- neglect, e.g. persistent failure to provide for physical needs.

Child abuse also includes the following areas of concern:

- domestic violence
- parental drug and alcohol abuse
- parental mental health concerns.

**Children (Safeguarding) Case Conference** is a meeting of family members, the child (where appropriate) and those professionals most involved with the child and family, following investigations into concerns about a child's welfare. This meeting will analyse all information about the child and make judgements about the likelihood that the child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, and whether their case should be subject to further assessment and a Safeguarding Children plan be drawn up.

**Church authority** includes a bishop, religious superior, parish priest and the senior administrative authority of a lay organisation, association, ecclesial movement, and prelature, or volunteer group, exercising authority in relation to a respondent.

**Church personnel** is a generic term used to describe people who serve the Church and includes any Bishop, religious superior, Priest, Deacon, religious, lay employee and volunteer.

**Complaint** is a generic term used to describe a report or account of actual or suspected abuse or inappropriate behaviour.

**Complainant** is a term used to describe a person who has made a complaint of abuse. In some cases the complainant will also be the person against whom it is alleged that the abuse was directed.

**Designated Liaison Person** is a person who has specific responsibility for ensuring effective safeguarding procedures are followed within the diocese or congregation.

**Disclosure of abuse** is the statement a person makes to another person that describes abuse that has occurred.

**Disclosure** is also the term used to check with the An Garda Síochána Central Vetting Unit or Access Northern Ireland for any past convictions held by an individual who is seeking to work in a paid or volunteer capacity and who may have contact with children.

**Equality and diversity** means acknowledging the diversity within society and treating all people with equal respect and giving them equal status and opportunities.

**Grooming and targeting** are words used to describe the way sex offenders deliberately select and establish a relationship of trust which they then manipulate to exercise power over the victim (their family, the organisation or professional setting).

**Job description** is the description of the role and tasks expected of the successful applicant for a post.

**Learning difficulty** is a term used to describe any one of a number of barriers to learning that a child may experience. Children with learning difficulties may find activities that involve thinking and understanding particularly difficult, and many need support in their everyday lives as well as at school. Learning difficulty is a broad term that covers a wide range of needs and problems, including dyslexia and behavioural problems, and the full range of ability.



**Learning disability:** people who have a learning disability have difficulties learning and find it particularly hard to understand new and complex information, and to develop new skills. A learning disability is a lifelong condition that is usually present from birth, although it may not become apparent until a child fails to reach particular developmental milestones. Learning disability is a relatively new term that has emerged over the last 20 years or so. Previously, people used to refer to someone as having a 'mental handicap'.

**Local safeguarding Representative** is the person within each local area identified to promote the safeguarding of children within that area and to act as a point of contact for personnel and to liaise with the relevant Designated Liaison Person as necessary.

**National Board**, the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church was established by the Irish Bishops' Conference, the Conference of Religious of Ireland and the Irish Missionary Union. It comprises individuals with a range of experience from the disciplines of civil and Canon law, psychology, child care, probation and managerial / business. The role of the Board is to provide independent advice and to monitor safeguarding practice in the Church in Ireland. (see [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie) for further information)

**National Office**, the National Office for Safeguarding Children was established by the National Board and implements the policies and decisions of the National Board.

**National Review Panel** is the independent panel of persons appointed by the National Board to decide upon and conduct reviews of a Safeguarding Children process.

**Organisation** is used as a generic term to cover a wide range of agencies, clubs or groups where activities or services are provided for children. Some of these might include: youth groups, faith based organisations, pre-school groups, out of school groups, day care agencies, leisure groups, recreational groups, drama and arts activities, holiday/play schemes, services provided by international development or aid agencies, and any other groups working with children or young people. It includes sports organisations but these are not covered by this publication.

**Paedophile** refers to a person who has a fixed and/or sole interest in sexual activity with children.

**Parents and carers** include anyone with parental responsibility or who undertakes day-to-day care for a child. It may include step-parents or grandparents or other members of the family.

**Person specification** is the list of qualifications, skills or attributes required for a post within an organisation.

**Professional Practice Committee**, it is envisaged that this committee will be a national resource whose function will be to provide advice and support to Bishops and religious superiors.

**Recruitment and vetting** means selecting staff and volunteers and having clear procedures for checking that they are safe to employ in your organisation.

**Respondent** is the person about whom a Safeguarding Children suspicion, disclosure or allegation has been made.

**Retrospective disclosure** is one made by an adult who suffered abuse during his or her childhood.

**Reviewer** is a member of the National Review Panel selected to conduct a review of process.

**Risk to children** is the term for those persons who have been identified as posing an ongoing risk to children.

**Safeguarding Children Guidance** is the document entitled Safeguarding Children – Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland, published by the National Board.

**Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children** is the process of ‘protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care which is undertaken so as to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully’ (from Working Together to Safeguard Children, HM Government 2006).

**Selection** refers to the procedures used to select a candidate.

**Staff, Volunteers or Workers** refer to anyone in paid or unpaid work who provides services or activities on behalf of the organisation. This may include coaches, course instructors or leaders.

**Support Person** is the person appointed to support anyone making an allegation or disclosure, or raising a concern about actual or suspected abuse.

**Volunteer** refers to ‘anyone who gives their time in a position in a non-profit organisation, free of charge, doing something for the good of the Community or a voluntary group (for which they may get travelling and other out-of-pocket expenses) and which is not for their own benefit or for the benefit of a close relative’.(Access NI, 2008)

**Vulnerable Children** is a broadly descriptive term defined in some guidance manuals as ‘those disadvantaged children who would benefit from extra help from public agencies in order to make the best of their life chances’. This includes children living in poor quality housing, for example, children with special educational needs, and children with a special health need that could limit their access to social and cultural activities. Such children are unlikely to be vulnerable throughout their childhoods, but rather to go through periods of vulnerability.

## Recruitment Checklist for Safe Recruitment, Vetting and Selection Policy

<p><b>The policy needs mention:</b> Once your policy is in place, even prior to any recruitment, it is good practice to mention that you have a Safeguarding Children Policy in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On your web site</li> <li>• On promotional literature for activities or events</li> <li>• In any advertisements for staff</li> <li>• On application forms and recruitment literature</li> </ul>	<p><b>Refer to policy:</b> <b>See Factsheet 4 and Good Management Practice (Section 6)</b></p>	<p><b>Tick when Action is taken</b></p>
<p><b>Recruiting – Check contact with children</b> What contact with children will be involved in the job? Will the person have unsupervised contact with children or hold a position of trust? What other forms of contact will the person have with children e.g. email, phone, internet?</p>	<p><b>BEFORE you recruit – is there contact with children in this job?</b></p>	
<p><b>Defining the Role</b> Tasks &amp; skills for the job are identified. The job description refers to working with &amp; having responsibility for children where applicable.</p>	<p><b>Follow Job Description template (appendix 4b)</b></p>	
<p><b>Key selection criteria</b> A list of essential &amp; desirable qualifications, skills &amp; experience.</p>	<p><b>Use this to screen applicants and for interview questions.</b></p>	
<p><b>Written application</b> All applicants been asked to supply details requested in our application form including personal details, past &amp; current work/volunteering experience</p>	<p><b>Job Application form:- (general employee – appendix 4c or volunteer – appendix 4d)</b></p>	
<p><b>Interview</b> Two representatives meet with the applicant to explore information contained in the application. In advance, application forms should be considered, highlighting points to raise at the interview including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant's attitudes towards working with children</li> <li>• Areas that need more detail</li> <li>• Vague statements or unsubstantiated qualifications</li> <li>• Frequent changes of employment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Interview chart – see questions in Factsheet 4</b></p>	

<p><b>At Interview – Review Declaration Form</b></p> <p><i>Ensure applicants have signed the declaration stating ‘there is no reason why they would be considered unsuitable to work with children’.</i></p> <p><i>Likewise ensure applicants have signed the declaration in respect of criminal convictions &amp; pending cases against them.</i></p>	<p><b>Has the Declaration Form been signed? Complete ‘For Official Use Only’ section of the application form.</b></p>	<p><b>Tick when Action is taken</b></p>
<p><b>Identification</b></p> <p><i>Applicants are asked for photographic documentation to confirm their identity e.g. passport, drivers licence.</i></p>	<p><b>Ask that they bring to interview – see originals (appendix 4e)</b></p>	
<p><b>Qualifications</b></p> <p><i>Applicants are asked for documentation to confirm their qualifications.</i></p>	<p><b>Bring original documentation to interview</b></p>	
<p><b>References</b></p> <p><i>Applicants are asked to supply the names of 2 referees who are not family members &amp; ideally who have first-hand knowledge of the applicant’s experience of work/contact with children.</i></p> <p><i>Referees are asked specifically to comment on the applicant’s suitability to work with children.</i></p> <p><i>References should be carried out by phone call and possibly followed up in writing.</i></p> <p><i>Identity of referees should be identified.</i></p>	<p><b>You make phone check</b></p>	
<p><b>Vetting procedures</b></p> <p><i>Has the vetting procedure for your selected applicant been carried out? (In the R of I An Garda Siochana central vetting unit if applicable. In N.I. Access NI vetting.)</i></p>	<p><b>Apply for vetting</b></p>	
<p><b>Records</b></p> <p><i>Details are kept of the selection &amp; induction process on the personnel file of the person appointed.</i></p> <p><i>References are kept on file as part of the record of the recruitment process.</i></p>	<p><b>Keep all documentation for one year</b></p>	
<p><b>Confidentiality</b></p> <p><i>Information about the applicant should only be seen by those directly involved in the recruitment process.</i></p> <p><i>Applicants should be reassured that information about them, including information about convictions, will be treated in confidence &amp; not used against them.</i></p>	<p><b>Ensure all written documents are secure and comply with data protection provisions.</b></p>	
<p><b>Training</b></p> <p><i>Incoming staff are made familiar with all the relevant provisions of this policy and related policies (Dignity at Work, Discipline, Grievance, I.T. etc.)</i></p>		

**(Insert Title) – Sample Job Description**

<b>Insert logo</b>	<b>Role Title</b>	
	<b>Reporting lines</b>	
	<b>Place of Work</b>	
	<b>Conditions</b>	
	<b>Date Prepared</b>	

**Defining the Job Objective: (Why is the job required?)***Guidelines:*

- ◆ Clarifies the context for goal setting
- ◆ Needs to be restated – not taken for granted that there is shared understanding of the job objectives are
- ◆ Consider ***what would remain undone*** if the job did not exist

**KEY Result Areas: (What are the main tasks undertaken?)***Guidelines:*

- ◆ These aspects are critical to attaining the job objective
- ◆ Establishing key result areas helps effectiveness
- ◆ A step towards enhanced clarity
- ◆ Does this job involve working with or having responsibility for children? Please note question on next page, and refer to Section 4 of the Province Safeguarding Children policy, if the role involves contact with children/young persons or vulnerable adults.

Goals set – few in number, according to the SMART criteria:

A system such as '**SMART**' goals, summarised below, is useful:

<b>Specific:</b>	they explicitly state what must be achieved (clearly stated)
<b>Measurable:</b>	in quantifiable terms: goals set can be evaluated in terms of <b>quantity/quality</b> of the end result and resources used
<b>Achievable:</b>	with a reasonable effort: they are realistic but challenging
<b>Results oriented</b>	not activity-oriented: the expected outcome is clear
<b>Time bound:</b>	they have specific completion times

<p><b>Does this role involve working with and having responsibility for children either in person, by phone, internet or email?</b>    Yes <input type="checkbox"/>    No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>(Please refer to the provisions and requirements of the Safeguarding Children Policy regarding recruitment and training requirements – specify exact duties below.)</i></p>
<b>For use in Selection and Recruitment – Essential qualifications:</b>
<b>For use in Selection and Recruitment: Competencies, skills and experience needed</b>
<p><b>The XX Job Description indicates selected responsibilities which is indicative only and is not intended to be exhaustive.</b></p>

**XXXX is an equal opportunities employer**

## Sample Application form – Employee

### For those with Substantial Access to Children

All information received in this form will be treated confidentially

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Forename: \_\_\_\_\_

Any other name previously known as: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Previous Address(es) over the last 5 years:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

How long have you lived at your current address? \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

PPS Number (R.O.I.): \_\_\_\_\_

N. I. Number (N.I.): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you (Please tick):

Employed ☐

Unemployed ☐

Student ☐

Homemaker ☐

Retired ☐

Other ☐

**Education & relevant qualifications.** (Attach C.V. or use additional pages:)

**Previous work experience:** (Attach C.V. or use additional pages:)

Do you agree to abide by \_\_\_\_\_ Our Code of Conduct (copy included with this form)?  
Yes ☐ No ☐

Have you completed Child Protection Awareness Training?  
Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, who was it organised by and when approximately:

Do you agree to undergo specific training for this position?  
Yes ☐ No ☐

Have you ever been asked to leave an organisation in the past?  
(if your answer is 'yes' we will contact you in confidence)  
Yes ☐ No ☐

Any other relevant information:

### References

Please supply the names of two responsible people (ideally previous employers and not relatives) whom we can contact and who from personal knowledge are willing to endorse your application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

O r g a n i s a t i o n : \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

O c c u p a t i o n : \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Appointment is subject to the receipt of satisfactory references and clearance.



### DISCLOSURE OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS & PERMISSION FOR STATUTORY CHECKS FOR THOSE WORKING WITH CHILDREN (Please read this information carefully)

Statement of non-discrimination:

Our organisation is committed to equal opportunity for all applicants including those with criminal convictions. Information about criminal convictions is requested to assist the selection process and will be taken into account only when the conviction is considered relevant to the post. Any disclosure will be seen in the context of the criteria for the responsibilities attaching to the post, the nature of the offence and the responsibility for the care of existing clients and employees.

For the purposes of your application for the position of: \_\_\_\_\_, it is our policy to ask for a check to be carried by the relevant authorities for this task.

Advice to Applicants:

Please complete this form as accurately as possible and return it marked '**Confidential**' in a sealed envelope. An arrangement will be made with you to discuss any clarification is required.

Thank you for your co-operation.

You **must** tell us now if you have a case pending or if you have ever been convicted of a criminal offence, or cautioned by the police, or bound over by the courts. You **must** include all offences, even minor offences. If you leave anything out it may affect your application. The disclosure of a criminal record or other information will not debar you from appointment as an employee or volunteer unless the Board of our organisation considers that the conviction renders you unsuitable. In making this decision, the Board will consider the nature of the offence, how long ago it was committed, what age you were at the time and other factors which may be relevant.

**Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence or been the subject of a caution; a Bound Over Order (NI only); been given the benefit of the Probation Act (ROI); or are you at present the subject of criminal investigations?**

Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, please state below the nature, date(s) and sentence of the offence(s)

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**Please provide any other information you feel may be of relevance such as:**

- the circumstances of the offence
- a comment on the sentence received
- any relevant developments in your situation since then
- whether or not you feel the conviction has relevance to this post.

I will inform the Director of the organisation of any future convictions or charges. I consent to the check being made via the statutory authorities in which I intend to work/volunteer.

**Declaration**

I declare that all the information supplied is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed forms to: \_\_\_\_\_

**Data Protection Clause**

All personal information provided on this application form will be stored securely in line with data protection legislation and will be used for the purposes of the recruitment process. Application forms will be retained in line with legislation. This information will not be disclosed to any external third party without your consent, except where necessary to comply with statutory requirements

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**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:**

Date application received: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewed by: 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

References received and are satisfactory: Yes ☐ No ☐

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Statutory check completed & returned (if appropriate): Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

Proof of applicant's identification received: Yes ☐ No ☐

Identification type: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation: ☐ Approved Reasons ☐ Not approved Reasons

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sample Application form – Volunteer for those with Substantial Access to Children

All information received in this form will be treated confidentially

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Forename: \_\_\_\_\_

Any other name previously known as: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Previous Address(es) over the last 5 years:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

How long have you lived at your current address? \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

PPS Number (R.O.I.): \_\_\_\_\_

N. I. Number (N.I.): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you (Please tick):

Employed ☐

Unemployed ☐

Student ☐

Homemaker ☐

Retired ☐

Other ☐

**Relevant qualifications.** (Attach C.V. or use additional pages:)

**Previous experience** (Previous in voluntary work or relevant occupational experience)

**How much time can you commit? (Please tick)**

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning							
Afternoon							
Evening							

**List any hobbies, interests or other activities you are involved in:**

Do you agree to abide by \_\_\_\_\_ Our Code of Conduct (copy included with this form)?  
 Yes ☐ No ☐

Have you completed Child Protection Awareness Training? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, who was it organised by and when approximately:

Do you agree to undergo specific training for the role of the (position being appointed)? Yes ☐ No ☐

Have you ever been asked to leave an organisation in the past? Yes ☐ No ☐

(if your answer is 'yes' we will contact you in confidence)

Any other relevant information:

Please supply the names of two responsible people (not relatives) whom we can contact and who from personal knowledge are willing to endorse your application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

Capacity in which they are known to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

Capacity in which they are known to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment is subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

### DISCLOSURE OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS & PERMISSION FOR STATUTORY CHECKS FOR THOSE WORKING WITH CHILDREN (Please read this information carefully)

Statement of non-discrimination:

Our organisation is committed to equal opportunity for all applicants including those with criminal convictions. Information about criminal convictions is requested to assist the selection process and will be taken into account only when the conviction is considered relevant to the post. Any disclosure will be seen in the context of the criteria for the responsibilities attaching to the post, the nature of the offence and the responsibility for the care of existing clients and employees.

For the purposes of your application for the post of: \_\_\_\_\_, it is our policy to ask for a check to be carried by the relevant authorities for this task.

Advice to Applicants:

Please complete this form as accurately as possible and return it marked '**Confidential**' in a sealed envelope. An arrangement will be made with you to discuss any clarification is required.

Thank you for your co-operation.

You **must** tell us now if you have a case pending or if you have ever been convicted of a criminal offence, or cautioned by the police, or bound over by the courts. You **must** include all offences, even minor offences. If you leave anything out it may affect your application. The disclosure of a criminal record or other information will not debar you from appointment as an employee or volunteer unless the Board of our organisation considers that the conviction renders you unsuitable. In making this decision, the Board will consider the nature of the offence, how long ago it was committed, what age you were at the time and other factors which may be relevant.

**Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence or been the subject of a caution; a Bound Over Order (NI only); been given the benefit of the Probation Act (ROI); or are you at present the subject of criminal investigations?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

If so, please state below the nature, date(s) and sentence of the offence(s)

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**Please provide any other information you feel may be of relevance such as:**

- the circumstances of the offence
- a comment on the sentence received
- any relevant developments in your situation since then
- whether or not you feel the conviction has relevance to this post.

I will inform the Director of the organisation of any future convictions or charges.

I consent to the check being made via the statutory authorities in which I intend to work/volunteer.

**Declaration**

I declare that all the information supplied is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed forms to: \_\_\_\_\_

**Data Protection Clause**

All personal information provided on this application form will be stored securely in line with data protection legislation and will be used for the purposes of the recruitment process. Application forms will be retained in line with legislation. This information will not be disclosed to any external third party without your consent, except where necessary to comply with statutory requirements

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**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:**

Date application received: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewed by: 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

References received and are satisfactory: Yes ☐ No ☐

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Statutory check completed & returned (if appropriate): Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

Proof of applicant's identification received: Yes ☐ No ☐

Identification type: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation: ☐ Approved Reasons ☐ Not approved Reasons

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Proof of identity**

**Please note: we are required you request you to bring  
proof of your identity to interview**

The person who asked you to complete this Form (eg your prospective employer) must verify your identification. Acceptable identity documents are listed below. ***Please bring original documents to interview, they will be copied and returned to you immediately.***

### **Valid Identification Documents:**

Three documents must be produced in the name of the Applicant;

***one from Group 1 and two from Group 2.***

It is preferred that *at least* one of these documents includes photographic identification.

#### **Group 1**

- ◆ Valid passport (any nationality)
- ◆ Valid Driving Licence Full or Provisional.
- ◆ Original birth certificate (issued within 12 months of date of birth, full or short form acceptable)
- ◆ Valid photo identity card (EU countries only)
- ◆ Adoption Certificate

#### **Group 2**

see\*/\*\*

- ◆ Marriage certificate/Civil Partnership Certificate
- ◆ Non-original birth certificate (issued after 12 months of date of birth, full or short form acceptable)
- ◆ P45/P60 statement
- ◆ Utility bill (electricity, gas, water, telephone – including mobile phone contract/bill)
- ◆ Valid TV licence
- ◆ Credit card statement
- ◆ Store card statement
- ◆ Mortgage statement
- ◆ Valid insurance certificate
- ◆ Certificate of nationality
- ◆ Work permit/visa\*\*
- ◆ Asylum Registration Card
- ◆ Personal correspondence or a document from a Government Department\*
- ◆ Bank or Building Society Document\*\*
- ◆ Financial statement e.g. pension, endowment\*\*
- ◆ Valid vehicle registration document
- ◆ Mail order catalogue statement\*
- ◆ Court summons
- ◆ Valid Social Welfare/NHS Card
- ◆ Court Claim Form
- ◆ Addressed payslip\*
- ◆ PPSN /National insurance number card
- ◆ Examination certificate (e.g. Leaving Certificate or GCSE, NVQ)
- ◆ Letter from a School Principal\*
- ◆ Child benefit book

\* documentation must be less than 3 months old

\*\* documentation must be issued within the last 12 months

## Confidential Reference Check

The following person: \_\_\_\_\_

has expressed an interest in working in \_\_\_\_\_

If you are happy to complete this reference, any information will be treated with due confidentiality and in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance. Information will be shared only with the person conducting the assessment of the candidate's suitability for the post, if he/she is offered the position in question. We would appreciate your being extremely candid, open and honest in your evaluation of this person.

1. How long have you known this person? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In what capacity? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What attributes does this person have that would make them suited to this work?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Please rate this person on the following – please tick one box for each statement:

	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
<b>Responsibility</b>					
<b>Maturity</b>					
<b>Self-motivation</b>					
<b>Can motivate others</b>					
<b>Energy</b>					
<b>Trustworthiness</b>					
<b>Reliability</b>					

This post involves substantial access to children. As an organisation committed to the welfare and protection of children, we are anxious to know if you have any reason at all to be concerned about this applicant being in contact with children. Yes ☐ No ☐

If you have answered **YES** we will contact you in confidence.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Sample Dignity at Work Policy and Procedure excerpt**

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the organisation's commitment to implementing and promoting measures to protect the dignity of employees and to encourage respect for others at work. This is done by creating a work environment free from discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment or bullying by dealing effectively with any complaints of such conduct, and also by welcoming diversity and promoting employment equality. This policy outlines that any discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment or bullying is prohibited by this organisation, and outlines a procedure to address any incidences of such behaviours.

### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to members of the Society of Jesus, all employees, contractors, consultants, clients, suppliers and visitors to the workplace. This policy applies during normal working time in the organisation's premises and also at work related social events, business trips and other work-related activities such as training courses or conferences, whether they take place at the organisation's premises or not, and whether or not they take place during normal working hours.

### **3. Policy**

#### ***Equality & Diversity Statement***

The organisation is committed to equal opportunity of employment and all employment policies, procedures and practices at the company will be based on merit, qualifications and abilities. Employment and recruitment practices will not be influenced or affected by an individual's race, colour, religion, sex, marital status, nationality, family status, sexual orientation, disability, age or membership of the Traveller Community. However the organisation does reserve the right to set minimum age requirements restricting persons under the age of 18 from applying for certain positions, e.g. night-shift working, and to offer those over normal retirement age fixed term contracts where they wish to continue in employment, or to set different retirement ages for employees. Implied in all the organisation's contracts of employment is a commitment to equal pay for equal work. Similarly, in selecting self-employed service providers, none of the grounds listed above will be used as the basis for any decision affecting their engagement with the organisation.

The organisation promotes the principle that the reality of managing diversity is about being able to work effectively with people who do not share every employee's background, experience or self-identification. Dignity is about celebrating the individual differences and similarities that each person brings to the workplace. It is about providing a range of perspectives that contribute to solving problems and creativity. It is not solely about different nationalities or genders working together, but embraces a mixture of people

in age, education, geographic origin, family status, type of work, cultures, religions, personal styles and sexual orientations.

The organisation will not tolerate discrimination, bullying, sexual harassment, or harassment by one employee or group of employees against another or others for any reason. Lack of respect may be shown in words, conduct, acts or demeanour. The organisation promotes a workplace culture of dignity, respect and openness to diversity which should be reflected in the actions and behaviour of all employees.

Discrimination is defined as the treatment of a person in a less favourable way than another person is, has or would have been treated, on any of the nine grounds listed below. Discrimination is also taken to have occurred where one of the nine grounds is imputed to a person, or where a person who is associated with another is treated less favourably by virtue of that association than another person who is not so associated would have been treated.

The organisation values the contribution of all employees and self-employed contractors and requires every employee to refrain from any type of behaviour which may be interpreted as bullying, discrimination, harassment or sexual harassment. While not restricted to the grounds listed below, the policy prevents any form of harassment or discrimination based on the following:

- Gender
- Marital status
- Family status
- Sexual orientation
- Religious belief or lack of religious belief
- Age (16+)
- Disability or the nature of disability
- Race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins
- Membership of the Traveller Community

All employees are required to act in a responsible and professional manner to maintain a pleasant working environment free of discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment or bullying. Bullying is a type of harassment which is not associated with these grounds. It is the duty of all employees to immediately report any incident of discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, or bullying by following the complaints procedures outlined in this policy.

### **Harassment**

The Employment Equality Acts 1998 and 2004 prohibit harassment. Harassment is defined as any form of unwanted conduct related to any of the nine discriminatory grounds, being conduct which has the purpose or effect of violating a person's dignity and creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment. Harassment can take many forms and includes the following:

- Verbal harassment - jokes, comments, ridicule or songs
- Written harassment - faxes, text messages, emails, notices or letters
- Physical harassment - jostling, shoving or any form of assault
- Intimidatory harassment - gestures, posturing or threatening poses
- Visual displays such as posters, emblems or badges
- Isolation or exclusion from social activities

### ***Sexual Harassment***

Sexual harassment is defined as conduct of a sexual nature which has the purpose or effect of violating a person's dignity and creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment. To constitute sexual harassment the conduct does not have to be repeated.

Such conduct may take the form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. This may include acts of physical intimacy, any request for sexual favours, or any other act or conduct including spoken words, gestures or the production, display or circulation of written words, pictures or other material.

### ***Bullying***

Bullying is prohibited by this organisation and is defined as repeated, inappropriate behaviour, direct or indirect, whether verbal, physical or otherwise, conducted by one or more persons against another or others, at the place of work and/or in the course of employment, which could reasonably be regarded as undermining the person's right to dignity at work. An isolated incident of the behaviour described in this definition may be an affront to dignity at work, but as a once off incident is not considered to be bullying. All forms of bullying are prohibited in this organisation. Note that examples of bullying are similar to those of harassment, however, bullying is not based on any of the nine grounds which would constitute harassment, as detailed above.

### ***Intent***

It is the effect of the treatment on the individual, and not the intent of the alleged perpetrator, that will be taken into consideration when determining whether or not the treatment constitutes discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment or bullying.

## Sample Parental Consent Form

### Activity permission form for persons under 18 years

(Information provided on this form will be treated as confidential)

1. Name of Jesuit Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Venue: \_\_\_\_\_ Activity/ Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Group Leader/person responsible: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of Child/Young Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Give details of any medical condition of which the organisers ought to be aware. Please advise of any allergies or food restrictions or any medication required.

I have read all the information provided concerning the programme of the above activity. I hereby give permission for my son/daughter/ward to participate in the above activity.

4. The Jesuit Community/Organisation only accepts liability or responsibility for an incident or accident caused by the negligence or breach of statutory duty of the organisation, its servants or agents.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian)

Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact persons and their telephone numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

## Employee Acceptance Form

I confirm that I adhere to the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy, and I am prepared to participate in any required training provided in this area.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

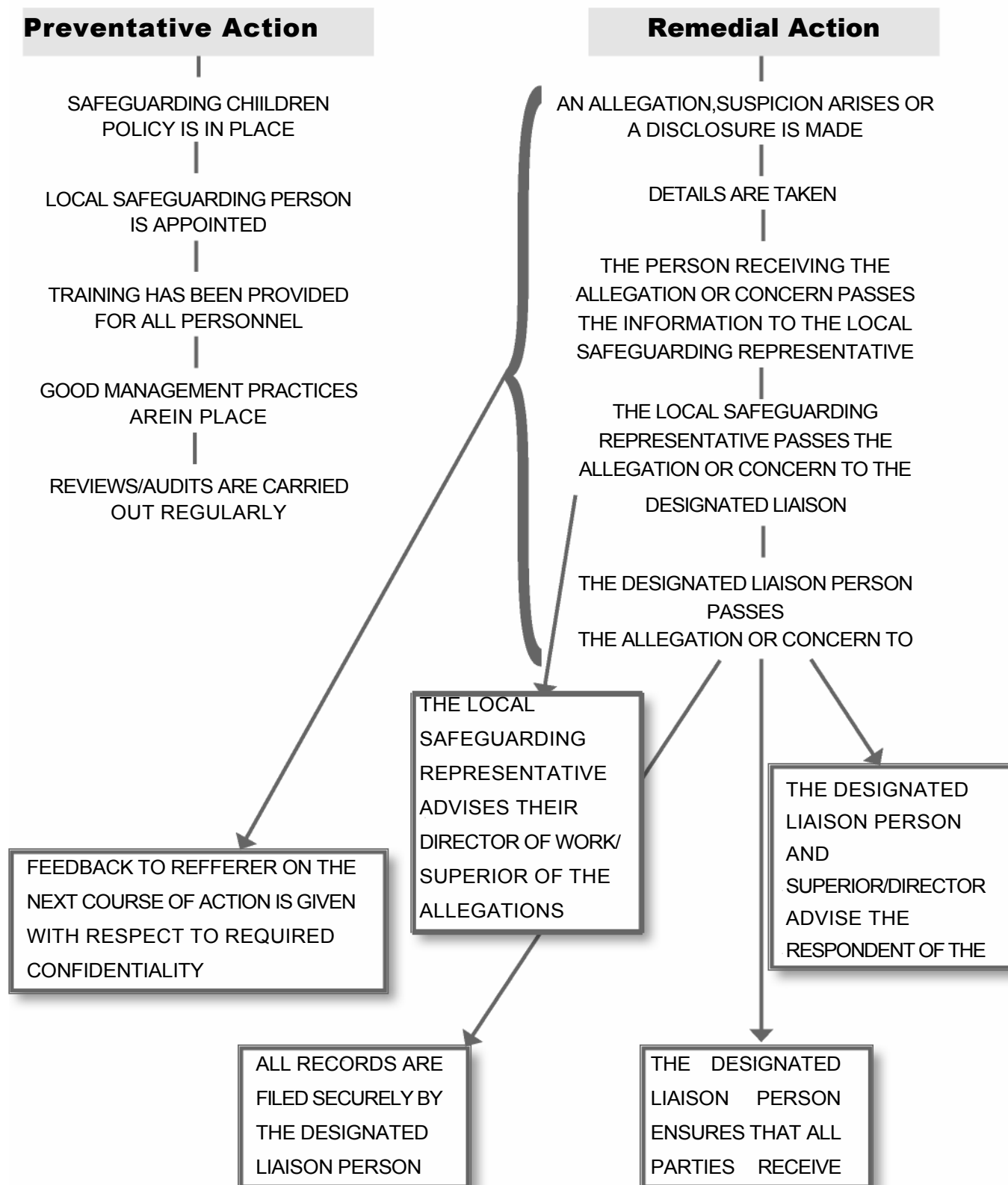
I have never been investigated by any police force or statutory health or a previous employer in relation to substantial complaints made concerning my treatment of children. I agree to the Board of Management / Superior / Director of Work or organisation seeking a certificate from the Garda Síochána /PSNI to the effect that I have not been the subject of an investigation, prosecution or conviction relating to the neglect or the physical, emotional or sexual abuse of children.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(When signed, this should be placed in the person's personal file)**

## Overview of Process for Safeguarding Children





## Society of Jesus, Irish Province Child Safeguarding Policy Statement 2013

We are committed to the Gospel values that cherish and safeguard children, as well as protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm or neglect.

We endeavour to do this by:

- Circulating our Policy and Procedures to Jesuit Communities and Organisations (Jesuits, employees and volunteers)
- Raising awareness of this important area, especially among all those who work directly with children, regarding:
  - . The values we hold in safeguarding children
  - . Advice and training in safe management practices
  - . The importance of familiarising all those who work with us with our Policy & Procedures whether in communities or in areas of work or ministry.

Each Jesuit Community/Ministry in Ireland:

- Recognises that Jesuits and Jesuit ministries have a special duty to provide a safe environment that fosters the integrity of children and young people as children of God and respects their dignity and human rights.
- Recognises that the welfare of children and young people is of paramount importance.
- Co-operates with parents/guardians and relevant agencies in promoting the well-being of children and young people.
- Responds in accordance with the Safeguarding Children; Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland (2009) to any reported concern about the safety of children and young people in the context of Jesuit related activities.

### *The text and supporting documents of the Child Safeguarding Policy*

All complaints of abuse pertaining to members of the Society of Jesus, employees, or volunteers, should be made to the Local Safeguarding Representative in the community or organisation, who will work in conjunction with the Province Delegate, the local HSE and An Garda Síochána. (In Northern Ireland the civil authorities are the local Health and Social Services Trust and the PSNI.) In cases of emergency, where a child appears to be at immediate and serious risk the Civil authorities must be contacted directly.

#### **Contact details:**

Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR): .....Mike Drennan/ Joe Greenan

The Society's Designated Liaison Person: ..... Mike Drennan SJ : 087 6475220

Deputy Designated Liaison Person: ..... Joe Greenan: 086 856 3526

HSE or Health and Social Services Trust Contact: .....(01) 268 0320

Garda or PSNI Contact: ..... Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit (01) 666 3435

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_