

## DONEGAL GROUP OF PARISHES CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

**Donegal Group of Parishes / The Rectory, Donegal Town, County Donegal F94 X2K3 / 074 9721075**

### STATEMENT

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

The Donegal Group of Parishes acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

The Donegal Group of Parishes is committed to safeguarding children by working under the guidance of the COI Child Safeguarding Policy and its associated guidance. We recognise that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. The bishops, clergy, volunteers and staff are committed to ensuring that all children have a positive and enjoyable experience in a safe and child-centred environment and are protected from abuse whilst participating in activities.

### NATURE OF SERVICE

The Donegal Group of Parishes provides the following activities and services to children under 18 years of age: Worship (Church Services), religious education (Sunday School), rites & ceremonies (Baptism, Confirmation etc.).

### RISK ASSESSMENT

All parishes, dioceses and other bodies operating under the Church of Ireland Child Safeguarding Policy have conducted a written Local Safeguarding Risk Assessment of any potential for harm to a child through their involvement in each church activity. The written risk assessment indicates the areas of potential harm, the likelihood of harm occurring, and lists the required policy, guidance, process and practice required to manage risks. If there are site specific risks that local parishes and diocese need to include in their Child Safeguarding Statement they have done so in conjunction with their relevant person.

Risks Identified	Policies/Procedures in Place
Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of the clergy/ staff/ volunteer/ peer	The COI Child Safeguarding Policy includes a code of behaviour and vetting procedures which addresses these risks. These are available as part of the procedures under Standard 1 available here: <a href="https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org">safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org</a>
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) to a child on outings by a member of the clergy/ staff/ volunteer/ stranger/ peer	The COI Child Safeguarding Policy addresses these risks as part of procedures under Standard 1 which is available at <a href="https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org">safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org</a>
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) to a child of bullying by peers	The COI Child Safeguarding Policy addresses these risks as part of procedures under Standard 1 which is available at <a href="https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org">safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org</a>
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from unauthorized photography	The COI Child Safeguarding Policy addresses these risks as part of procedures under Standard 1 which is available at <a href="https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org">safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org</a>
Risk of harm (as defined in CFA 2015) of a child from online abuse through social media / internet access	The COI Child Safeguarding Policy addresses these risks as part of procedures under Standard 1 which is available at <a href="https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org">safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org</a>
COI bishops, clergy, volunteers or staff fail to understand their responsibilities to protect children from risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015)	Procedures to provide safeguarding training and support are in place as risks as part of procedures under Standard 1 which is available at <a href="https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org">safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org</a>

In addition to the risk assessments and the above policies and procedures named, the following procedures are in place as part of the COI Child Safeguarding Policy which is available here <https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/> (or scan QR code below):

- Procedures for the safe recruitment of volunteers or employees to work with children in our services.
- Procedures for provision of and access to child safeguarding training, including the identification and reporting of harm.
- Procedures for reporting child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla and An Garda Síochána.
- Procedures for maintaining a list of persons in each diocese who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person for this Child Safeguarding Statement.
- Procedures for dealing with allegations made against clergy/staff/volunteer/peer.



### IMPLEMENTATION

The Donegal Group of Parishes recognises that implementation is an ongoing process and is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support its intention to keep children safe from harm and the risk of harm. The Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed no later than **May 2028** or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed by the provider of the relevant service:

*David Huss*

date:

18/06/2026

### RELEVANT PERSON

For any queries relating to this statement please contact the relevant person who is:

**Archdeacon David Huss** 074 9721075 087 282484 [donegal@raphoe.anglican.org](mailto:donegal@raphoe.anglican.org)