



# SAFEGUARDING

## I

### Child Safeguarding Statement

*with detailed risk assessment*

2023

Adopted by the Board of Saint Patrick's Cathedral

## The Cathedral's Mission

As the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland, we strive to follow the path of Saint Patrick to witness the love and power of God made known in Jesus Christ. We do this through a ministry of worship and welcome, holiness, and hospitality to all. Saint Patrick's Cathedral is the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland, a member church of the Anglican/Episcopalian Communion, with services every day, which all are welcome to attend. The Cathedral choirs sing at one or more of these daily services, continuing an ancient tradition of prayer and music offered to glorify God, a pattern of worship with its roots in the thirteenth century.

## Document Revisions

Revision	Date Adopted	Review Date	Description
0	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2023	Before 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025	New Procedure Document

## Safeguarding Series & Related Documents

- Safeguarding I: Child Safeguarding Statement: with detailed risk assessment
- Safeguarding II: Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people
- Safeguarding III: Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns
- Safeguarding IV: Procedure for Responding to Child Safeguarding Concerns in Respect of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Workers
- Safeguarding V: Mandated Persons Policy and Procedures
- Safeguarding VI: Procedure for the Appointment of Relevant Person
- Safeguarding VII: Child Safeguarding Information and Training Strategy
- Safeguarding VIII: Procedure for Implementation, Monitoring, and Review of Safeguarding Policies and Procedures
- Staff Handbook
- Volunteer Policy & Agreement
- The Constitution of The Church of Ireland
- Safeguarding Trust: The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children

## Acknowledgements

This policy was produced in consultation with Michael Lynch Safeguarding ([michaellynchsafeguarding.com](http://michaellynchsafeguarding.com)) by the Education & Safeguarding Officer, Clark Brydon ([safeguarding@stpatrikscathedral.ie](mailto:safeguarding@stpatrikscathedral.ie)).

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## 1. Our Service

Saint Patrick's Cathedral, at Saint Patrick's Close, Dublin 8, is the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland, a member church of the Anglican Communion. We provide religious, educational, musical, and recreational activities and services to children on a daily basis through a range of local services.

We work under the guidance of the Church of Ireland's national safeguarding policy – *Safeguarding Trust: The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children* – and its associated procedures.

Services and activities delivered to children throughout Saint Patrick's Cathedral include:

- Religious ministry.
- Chorister programme, which includes off-site activities, domestic and international tours, and collaboration with Saint Patrick's Cathedral Choir School (Roll Number: 19480V).
- Bell ringing for school-age students.
- Peripatetic music tuition, including one-to-one teaching.
- Educational activities with schools, clubs, and community groups within the Cathedral and its environs.
- Community events on- and off-site.
- Community outreach initiatives.
- Family and tourist visits to the cathedral.

## 2. Our Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child must be paramount in all decisions made by Saint Patrick's Cathedral staff.
- It is our duty to safeguard all children, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, ability, race, or ethnicity, by providing safe and structured child-centred services and activities,
- Children have a right to dignity and respect.
- Young people have a right to be heard, listened to, and taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- Parents/carers have a right to respect and should be consulted and involved in matters concerning their children. We respect that right, properly balanced with the need to safeguard children from harm<sup>1</sup>.
- Child safeguarding requires multi-agency, multi-disciplinary cooperation. We will work with Tusla, An Garda Síochána, and other agencies and professionals in the best interests of children and young people.

### 3. Risk Assessment (Summary)

We have carried out an assessment of the potential for harm<sup>1</sup> to a child at Saint Patrick's Cathedral. A written assessment setting out the risks identified and the procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

Risk Identified	Policies/Procedures in place to manage risk identified
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child from a worker in Saint Patrick's Cathedral.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment and selection procedures for workers in our Staff Handbook and our Volunteer Policy &amp; Agreement.</li> <li>Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people.</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li> <li>Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>Procedure for Responding to Child Safeguarding Concerns in Respect of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Workers.</li> <li>Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child by a parent, carer or guardian, third party, or member of the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people</li> <li>Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>Missing Child Procedure.</li> <li>Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li> </ul>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child or young person from another child or young person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anti-Bullying Policy.</li> <li>Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people</li> <li>Various policies, procedures on delivery of safe activities.</li> <li>Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> </ul>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> , or reasonable grounds for concern regarding child abuse, not being recognised or reported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>Mandated Persons Policy and Procedures</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li> </ul>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child with access to Information Communications Technology (ICT).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people</li> <li>Recruitment and selection procedures for workers in our Staff Handbook and our Volunteer Policy &amp; Agreement.</li> <li>Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>Procedure for Responding to Child Safeguarding Concerns in Respect of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Workers.</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li> </ul>

#### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> **Harm** to a child means: 'assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child'.

<sup>2</sup> **Safeguarding Trust** means the Church of Ireland Ireland's national safeguarding policy - *Safeguarding Trust: The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children* and its associated procedures.

## 4. Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements of the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children:

- Mandated Persons Policy and Procedures
- Procedure for the Appointment of Relevant Person
- Procedure for Implementation, Monitoring, and Review of Safeguarding Policies and Procedure

All policies and procedures mentioned in our Child Safeguarding Statement are available upon request.

## 5. Implementation and Review

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Saint Patrick's Cathedral is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Statement will be reviewed by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in legislation, national policy, or any other matter to which the statement refers.

A copy of this statement is displayed in Saint Patrick's Cathedral and on our website. It has been provided to all workers in Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement will be made available upon request to parents, carers or guardians of children availing of our services, members of the public, and to Tusla staff.

### Contact Details:

Role	Name	Phone	Email
Service Provider	<b>Very Revd William Morton</b> Dean of Saint Patrick's Cathedral	+353 1 4539472	dean@stpatrickscathedral.ie
Relevant Person	<b>Mr Clark Brydon</b> Education & Safeguarding Officer	+353 861030931	safeguarding@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Both persons may be contacted by post at:

**Saint Patrick's Cathedral**  
Deanery Offices  
Upper Kevin Street  
Dublin D08 AW65

## 6. Risk Assessment (Detailed)

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Saint Patrick's Cathedral has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child or young person in the care of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified, and the procedures in place to manage those risks, is outlined below:

Risk Identified	Policies/Procedures in Place to Manage Risk
<b>Risk of harm<sup>1</sup> to a child from a worker.</b>	
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child as a result of abusive or inappropriate behaviour by a worker at Saint Patrick's Cathedral.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment and selection procedures for workers in our Staff Handbook and our Volunteer Policy &amp; Agreement.</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people.</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li> <li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>• Procedure for Responding to Child Safeguarding Concerns in Respect of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Staff.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child as a result of abusive or inappropriate behaviour by a worker while away from Saint Patrick's Cathedral on a journey or activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment and selection procedures for workers in our Staff Handbook and our Volunteer Policy &amp; Agreement.</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people (Managing Trips Away; Transport)</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li> <li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>• Procedure for Responding to Child Safeguarding Concerns in Respect of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Staff.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child as a result of abusive or inappropriate behaviour by a worker whilst alone with a child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment and selection procedures for workers in our Staff Handbook and our Volunteer Policy &amp; Agreement.</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people (Relationships; Supervision; One-to-One Working; Medical, Intimate, and Additional Care; Physical Contact; Responding to Disruptive or Challenging Behaviour).</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li> <li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedure for Responding to Child Safeguarding Concerns in Respect of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Staff.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> as a result of insufficient or inadequate supervision of children during a Saint Patrick's Cathedral activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment and selection procedures for workers in our Staff Handbook and our Volunteer Policy &amp; Agreement.</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people (Supervision; Managing Trips Away; Transport)</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li> <li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>• Procedure for Responding to Child Safeguarding Concerns in Respect of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Staff.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
Risk of a misunderstanding by a child or young person as a result of inappropriate or poor communication, practice, or behaviour by a worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment and selection procedures for workers in our Staff Handbook and our Volunteer Policy &amp; Agreement.</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people.</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li> <li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>• Procedure for Responding to Child Safeguarding Concerns in respect of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Staff.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
<b>Risk of harm<sup>1</sup> to a child by a parent, carer or guardian, a third party, or a member of the public.</b>	
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child or young person by the child or young person's parent, carer, or guardian.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people.</li> <li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child or young person by a third party admitted to Saint Patrick's Cathedral.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people.</li> <li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>• Missing Child Policy and Procedure.</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child or young person in the care of Saint Patrick's Cathedral by a member of the public.	



Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child or young person from another child or young person.	
Risk of bullying of a child or young person by another child or young person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unique Code of Conduct for each group of children.</li><li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people.</li><li>• Anti-Bullying Policy.</li><li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li></ul>
Risk of physically or sexually harmful behaviour towards a child or young person by another child or young person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people.</li><li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li><li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li></ul>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> , or reasonable grounds for concern regarding child abuse, not being recognised or reported.	
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> , or reasonable grounds for concern that a child has been, is being, or is at risk of being abused, not being recognised by workers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li><li>• Procedure for Responding to Child Safeguarding Concerns in Respect of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Staff.</li><li>• Mandated Persons Policy and Procedures.</li><li>• Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li><li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li></ul>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> , or reasonable grounds for concern that a child has been, is being, or is at risk of being abused, not being reported to the DLP <sup>3</sup> or Tusla by workers (including mandated persons).	
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> , or reasonable grounds for concern that a child has been, is being, or is at risk of being abused, not being reported to Tusla by a mandated person or the DLP <sup>3</sup> .	
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child with access to Information Communications Technology (ICT).	
Risk of inappropriate communication with a child or young person, through ICT, by a worker during, or outside of, Saint Patrick's Cathedral activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recruitment and selection procedures for workers in our Staff Handbook and our Volunteer Policy &amp; Agreement.</li><li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people (Relationships; Social Media, Smartphones, and Photography)</li><li>• Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li><li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li><li>• Procedure for Responding to Child Safeguarding Concerns in Respect of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Staff.</li><li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li></ul>
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child or young person through the taking and/or use of unauthorised or inappropriate photographs or video recordings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people (Social Media, Smartphones, and Photography).</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-Bullying Policy.</li> <li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
Risk of online bullying of a child or young person by another child or young person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people (Social Media, Smartphones, and Photography).</li> <li>• Anti-Bullying Policy.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
Risk of online sexually harmful behaviour towards a child or young person by another child or young person in.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people (Social Media, Smartphones, and Photography).</li> <li>• Anti-Bullying Policy.</li> <li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> **Harm** to a child means: ‘assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child’s health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child’.

<sup>2</sup> **Safeguarding Trust** means the Church of Ireland Ireland’s national safeguarding policy - *Safeguarding Trust: The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children* and its associated procedures.

<sup>3</sup> **DLP** means the Designated Liaison Person appointed by Saint Patrick’s Cathedral to report to and liaise with Tusla - Child and Family Agency and the Garda Síochána in respect of concerns regarding harm to a child or child abuse. The DLP is a ‘mandated person’ as defined by the Children First Act 2017.

## **Appendix 1: Child Safeguarding Statement (for display)**

On the following page is a version of this Child Safeguarding Statement for display.

# Child Safeguarding Statement

## 1. Our Service

Saint Patrick's Cathedral, at Saint Patrick's Close, Dublin 8, is the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland, a member church of the Anglican Communion. We provide religious, educational, musical, and recreational activities and services to children on a daily basis through a range of local services.

We work under the guidance of the Church of Ireland's national safeguarding policy – *Safeguarding Trust: The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children* – and its associated procedures.

Services and activities delivered to children throughout Saint Patrick's Cathedral include:

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- Bell ringing for school-age students.
- Peripatetic music tuition, including one-to-one teaching.
- Educational activities with schools, clubs, and community groups within the Cathedral and its environs.
- Community events on- and off-site, and community outreach initiatives.
- Family and tourist visits to the cathedral.

## 2. Our Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.
- The best interests of the child must be paramount in all decisions made by Saint Patrick's Cathedral staff.
- It is our duty to safeguard all children, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, ability, race, or ethnicity, by providing safe and structured child-centred services and activities.
- Children have a right to dignity and respect.
- Young people have a right to be heard, listened to, and taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives.
- Parents/carers have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters concerning their children. We respect that right, properly balanced with the need to safeguard children from harm<sup>1</sup>.
- Child safeguarding requires multi-agency, multi-disciplinary cooperation. We will work with Tusla, An Garda Síochána, and other agencies and professionals in the best interests of children and young people.

## 3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child availing of our services and activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and a list of the procedures for managing those risks is summarised below:

Risk Identified	Policies/Procedures in place to manage risk identified
Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child from a worker in Saint Patrick's Cathedral.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment and selection procedures for workers in our Staff Handbook and our Volunteer Policy &amp; Agreement.</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people.</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li> <li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>• Procedure for Responding to Child Safeguarding Concerns in Respect of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Staff.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
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Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child or young person from another child or young person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-Bullying Policy.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people.</li> <li>• Various policies and procedures on the delivery of safe activities.</li> <li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> </ul>
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Risk of harm <sup>1</sup> to a child with access to Information Communications Technology (ICT).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Behaviour: for working with children and young people.</li> <li>• Recruitment and selection procedures for workers in our Staff Handbook and our Volunteer Policy &amp; Agreement.</li> <li>• Procedure for Recognising, Recording, and Reporting Child Safeguarding Concerns.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Trust<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>• Procedure for Responding to Child Safeguarding Concerns in Respect of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Staff.</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Information and Training Procedure.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Harm to a child means: 'assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or sexual abuse of the child'.

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## 4. Our Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

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- Mandated Persons Policy and Procedures
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All policies and procedures mentioned in our Child Safeguarding Statement are available upon request.

## 5. Implementation and Review

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Saint Patrick's Cathedral is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Statement will be reviewed by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**, or as soon as practical after there has been a material change in legislation, national policy or any matter to which the statement refers.

A copy of this statement is displayed in Saint Patrick's Cathedral and on our website. It has been provided to all workers in Saint Patrick's Cathedral. Our Child Safeguarding Statement will be made available upon request to parents, carers or guardians of children availing of our services, to members of the public, and to Tusla staff.

The Very Revd William W. Morton (Dean of Saint Patrick's Cathedral)  
Service Provider

Saint Patrick's Cathedral  
Deanery Offices  
Upper Kevin Street  
Dublin D08 AW65

Mr Clark D.J. Brydon (Education & Safeguarding Officer)  
Relevant Person

Saint Patrick's Cathedral  
Deanery Offices  
Upper Kevin Street  
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