



Safeguarding



Greetings!

Hello from everyone here in the Archdiocese Safeguarding Office. We hope the transition to autumn, with it's cooler weather and return to routine, has gone smoothly.

We are pleased to hear of so many activities, clubs, programs and groups starting back up again. A wee reminder to visit [our webpage](#) if you need any help with submitting a volunteer application!

As always, many thanks to all the folks in our parishes who work hard to safeguard the work of the Church!

-Caterina, Jillian and Mary Rose

Important Dates

October 23rd:
Induction Training on Zoom

October 26th: Clergy
Safeguarding Update

November 11th:
Induction Training in Eyre Hall

November 13th: PSC
Mop Up Session 7-8:30pm (Zoom)

November 14th: Clergy
Safeguarding Update

Annual Safeguarding Statement

Please note that the statement below is to be used at masses and on websites on the weekend of 30th Sept/1st Oct. Should you have any questions regarding use of the statement, please contact Caterina (Caterina.O'Connor@rcag.org.uk).

Safeguarding concerns every one of us. Our clergy and lay people strive to make our Church and our faith communities as safe and welcoming a place for everyone as possible and to constantly endeavour to protect children and vulnerable adults.

Pope Francis has asked that families are made aware that they have a right to expect to be safe and secure in "our Father's house". The Bishops of Scotland and the Archdiocese of Glasgow are committed to this.

Safeguarding in the Catholic Church means doing everything we can to protect our children and vulnerable adults. With our safeguarding procedures and the commitment of so many volunteers, we focus on making our parishes among the safest environments for those who are vulnerable. We do this by having a safe system of recruitment for clergy, religious, employees and our volunteers. This includes PVG checks, references and safeguarding training. We have a reporting system so people can come forward with any concerns, be listened to and have those concerns acted upon. As an Archdiocese, we set high standards and we commit to maintaining these high standards.

Safeguarding also includes the care and support of survivors, their families and our Parish and Faith Communities, we continue to make this a priority.

In this Archdiocese, we have a dedicated Safeguarding Team based at the Curia offices and they can be contacted by e-mail or phone to advise on any safeguarding matter. You can find details on the Safeguarding page of the Archdiocesan website and on the poster at the back of the Church.

Every parish has trained Safeguarding Co-ordinators. Alongside the Parish Priest they ensure the safe recruitment of volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults. In this Parish of....., our Parish Safeguarding Coordinator(s) is/are Their name(s) and contact details are also on the poster at the back of the Church.

All the work and developments in Safeguarding within this Archdiocese is overseen by a group of lay safeguarding experts from Survivors Organisations, Health, Education, Social Work and the Police who form the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group and advise the Archdiocese on Safeguarding matters.

All of our Parishes and the Archdiocese are audited annually by the independent Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. Their contact details are on the Archdiocesan website and both they and the Bishops' Conference of Scotland publish the results of the audits each year. In addition to the audit, each Parish and the Archdiocese prepare an Action Plan to outline how they will continue to improve practice for the coming year.

Information on developments and advice on good practice is contained in our quarterly newsletter which is provided to all Parishes and is on the Archdiocesan website.

The Archdiocesan Safeguarding Team would like to thank all parishioners for their care and diligence in safeguarding matters, for holding children and vulnerable adults at the centre of our work and for creating a culture of safeguarding within our Church.

Caterina O'Connor
Director of Safeguarding



Safeguarding FAQ's

If you're new to safeguarding and child protection, it can be difficult to know exactly what you need to do to keep children and vulnerable adults safe.

Who is responsible for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults?

Everyone in your parish who volunteers with children or vulnerable adults has a responsibility to keep them safe. As a volunteer, you should be aware of the [Archdiocese Safeguarding Policies and Procedures](#), know what to look out for and how to respond if you have a concern.

Every parish should have a Parish Safeguarding Coordinator in place. They are the nominated child and vulnerable adult protection lead. If you have a safeguarding concern, you can contact your PSC or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (Caterina O'Connor).

What is a safeguarding issue or concern?

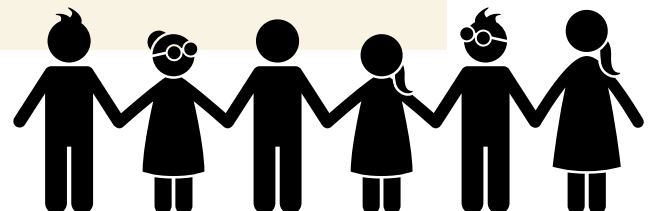
A safeguarding issue or concern is anything that might impact on children or a vulnerable adult's safety and welfare, cause them harm, or put them at risk of harm. Sometimes, a child or young person might tell someone about abuse or neglect. You might also notice signs of abuse or see something that worries you. Safeguarding issues or concerns also include things that can increase the risk of harm – for example, not following safe recruitment practices, having inadequate supervision or not carrying out proper risk assessment for online and offline activities.

If you think a child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger, phone 999. If you are worried but the person in question is not in immediate danger, you should share your concerns with your PSC or with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (Caterina O'Connor).

Still a bit unsure of what to do if you have a concern?

Here are some helpful steps to guide you.

1. **Listen.** Listen carefully and take the person seriously. Acknowledge concerns or allegations of abuse.
2. **Respond.** Ensure the immediate safety of the person involved. In an emergency where someone is at immediate risk, contact the police or social work.
3. **Record.** Make a note of what has been said, heard or seen. Keep the note as a record of what you were told. Do NOT investigate.
4. **Refer.** Pass all information on to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (Caterina O'Connor). The DSA will refer allegations to the police.



Did you know...

Our team are always available to meet and chat about safeguarding in your parish. If you would like a bit of assistance getting your PSC email up and running, accessing Safeguarding Resources and forms, or making an assessment of your parish's safeguarding practices, feel free to reach out!



Important Notes

Upcoming Clergy Safeguarding Updates

The Archdiocese Safeguarding Department will soon be hosting the annual Clergy Safeguarding Updates. These meetings are an important part of our safeguarding work in the Archdiocese and are a vital touchpoint for keeping clergy informed of changes and updates. If you have not yet RSVP'd, please do so by clicking here.

Registration is open!

The National Safeguarding Conference will be held on Saturday the 18th of November. This conference is for clergy, religious, PSCs, volunteers & employees and all who have a role in the Church's safeguarding efforts in Scotland. To register, click here.

PSC Update Make Up Session

Many thanks to all those who were able to attend the PSC Update we held earlier in the month. We will be holding a make up session for those who were unable to attend. This session will be held on Zoom. To register, please click here.

Need to get in touch with an admin question? Jillian and Mary Rose can be quickly contacted via our joint email. If you would prefer to speak via phone, we can be reached M/Th/F on 0141 225 2605.