



proíbhínse fhroínsíasach na h-Éireann

franciscan province of ireland

provincial office – 4, merchants' quay – dublin 8 – ireland

The Franciscan Province of Ireland Child Safeguarding Training Strategy (3-5 years)

Introduction:

The Franciscan Province of Ireland is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people through the provision of safeguarding training. This child safeguarding training strategy details how the Franciscan Order supports all church personnel, religious, paid staff and volunteers, to acquire the knowledge, skills and values to safeguarding children and young people, protect them from harm and promote their welfare. It is an integral part of the implementation of the Franciscan Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. It is also consistent with the Franciscans vision to promote the rights of children and young people, including their right to be protected from harm, to be heard, listened to, and taken seriously.

Aim:

- To raise awareness and create an understanding of the individual obligation to safeguard children and young people.
- To develop confidence and competence amongst all church personnel, friars, paid staff and volunteers, in dealing with safeguarding matters.
- To provide good quality training and learning opportunities to all church personnel, which will enable them to fulfil their child safeguarding roles and responsibilities in line with the Franciscan Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, (2018) the Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016, Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and where relevant, legal responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015.

Policy/Legislation context:

The training strategy is supported by the following documents:

- Franciscan Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, (2018)
- The Franciscan Province of Ireland, Child Safeguarding Statement
- The National Board Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2016
- Children First Act 2015
- Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017
- Tusla Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice (*2019, 2nd Edition*)
- Tusla, Best Practice Principles for organisations in developing Children First Training Programmes (2017)

Child Safeguarding Training Requirements:

Child Safeguarding training and refresher training will be provided to all church personnel in accordance with Standard 5, Training and Support for Keeping Children Safe. In accordance with this Standard, all church personnel engaging in ministry with children/young people must attend a



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one-day child safeguarding training programme and thereafter attend a refresher session, every three years. All other church personnel, staff and volunteers must attend an information session.

Training Implementation Strategy:

The Franciscan Safeguarding Office will take a lead role in implementing the Franciscan training strategy with the support of the Franciscan Safeguarding Committee, the Franciscan Provincial and the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church (NBSCCCI).

- The Franciscan Safeguarding Committee's three-year safeguarding strategy identifies safeguarding training as an ongoing objective, and which includes evidence that training will be delivered to church personnel within the Order. A key task in achieving this objective is the completion of an annual training needs analysis.
- The Provincial will advise each community of the requirement for all church personnel to attend child safeguarding training appropriate to their role and level of contact with children and young people.
- A training register will be maintained by the Safeguarding Office who will also follow up on the required refresher training requirements.
- The Safeguarding Office will consult the training register and liaise with the Guardian of each community during the annual safeguarding audit regarding safeguarding training needs, which will inform the training needs analysis.
- The child safeguarding training programme will be coordinated and delivered by the Safeguarding Office. In the event of a resource training deficit a registered external trainer may be contracted for certain tasks.
- The Provincial will ensure that all necessary resources are available to support the delivery of safeguarding training in accordance with the training strategy.
- External support and guidance regarding training and/or training materials can be accessed from the Director of Training in the NBSCCCI.
- Training will be reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis, which includes participant evaluation/feedback, information provided during the annual safeguarding audit, a Safeguarding Office review and the provision of details regarding training conducted, feedback given to the NBSCCCI on an annual basis in accordance with the NBSCCCI Standards.
- The NBSCCCI have a quality assurance role in relation to the overarching NBSCCCI child safeguarding training strategy and all safeguarding training provided can only be delivered by registered NBSCCCI trainers. In addition, all NBSCCCI trainers must undergo a review of training delivery every three years.
- All training records will be maintained and stored in line with GDPR and Data Protection legislation.



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Resources required in implementing the training strategy:

- Safeguarding Office personnel to attend all relevant and updated training as required by the NBSCCCI.
- Safeguarding Office personnel to keep updated and informed regarding any key legislative, church and policy changes.
- The Safeguarding Office to ensure training registers are maintained reviewed and evaluated after each training event.
- The Safeguarding Office to coordinate and plan for all training events.

Key partners in training strategy:

The key partners in the training strategy are the Franciscan Safeguarding Committee, the Franciscan Provincial, and the Safeguarding Office.

Duration of training strategy:

The training strategy will remain in place for **3 years** but may need to be reviewed and updated in accordance with any legislative, church changes/developments during this period.

Signed:

Mr Peter Kirwan

Chairperson
Franciscan Safeguarding Committee

Date: June 2021

Review date: June 2024