

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT (Republic of Ireland)

Overview

The Methodist Church in Ireland provides religious, formative and recreational activities and services to children under 18 years of age through a range of local services.

The Methodist Church in Ireland 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.

Underlying Principles

The Methodist Church in Ireland is committed to safeguarding children by working under the guidance of its national safeguarding policy Taking Care and its associated procedures. The Methodist Church in Ireland recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. The clergy, staff and volunteer leaders 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.

Local Responsibility

All societies and/or circuits and other associated bodies operating under Taking Care conduct risk assessments of any potential for harm to a child through their involvement in Church activities. These risk assessments indicate the areas of potential harm, the likelihood of harm occurring, and lists the required policy, guidance, process and practice required to alleviate the risks. If there are site specific risks that local societies and circuits need to include in their Child Safeguarding Statement they have done so in conjunction with their relevant person at that level.

Corporate Risk Register

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 Methodist Church in Ireland has an extensive child safeguarding policy including a code of behaviour and vetting procedures which addresses these risks and are available in Taking Care, Republic of Ireland Chapter, pages 4-8.
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 Methodist Church in Ireland child safeguarding policy addresses these risks and is available in Taking Care, Chapter 8, pages 50-55.
Risk of harm of bullying of a child by a member of the clergy/staff/volunteer/peer	The Methodist Church in Ireland child safeguarding policy addresses these risks and is available in Taking Care, Chapter 2, page 10
Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from unauthorised photography	The Methodist Church in Ireland child safeguarding policy addresses these risks and is available in Taking Care, Chapters 8 & 9, pages 50-59.

Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from online abuse through social media or internet access	The Methodist Church in Ireland child safeguarding policy addresses these risks and is available and there is further guidance available in Taking Care, Chapters 8 & 9, pages 50-59.
Allegations made against clergy/staff/volunteer/peer	The Methodist Church in Ireland child safeguarding policy addresses these risks and is available and there is further guidance available in Taking Care, Republic of Ireland Chapter, pages 18 and 21.

Connexional Policy

The 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.

In addition to the society/ circuit and other associated bodies risk assessments and the above policies and procedures named, the following procedures are in place throughout the Methodist Church in Ireland as part of its safeguarding policies and procedures:

- 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 society/ circuit who are mandated persons.

- Procedure for appointing a relevant person for this child safeguarding statement.

The full Methodist Church in Ireland Child Safeguarding Policy is available on the Methodist Church in Ireland website at <https://irishmethodist.org/safeguarding/> and [here](#)

Review Timescale

This statement was prepared in June 2023. The Methodist Church in Ireland recognises that implementation is an on-going 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 June 2024, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

The Relevant Person for this Child Safeguarding Statement is:

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