

diocese of achonry

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

November 26th, 2023



Dear friends,

Today is an opportunity for us to reflect upon the very important ministry of Safeguarding in our Diocese. Safeguarding is a ministry dedicated to the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults who participate in the life of the Church. The second review of child safeguarding practice in our Diocese was undertaken by The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church (National Board) in 2022. The full review is available on our diocesan website, www.achonrydiocese.org.

The review was carried out over three days by independent reviewers on behalf of the National Board in November 2022. It assessed our compliance with the Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016 and involved visits to parishes, meetings with young people, such as Altar Servers and Choir Members. Meetings were held with personnel with responsibility for youth activities in the parishes. Further meetings were held with Local Safeguarding Representatives and our safeguarding committee, priests, Diocesan Liaison Persons as well as a review of our safeguarding policies, procedures, and files. I am glad to report that the reviewers acknowledged and commended the great commitment to Safeguarding in the Diocese. Like with any review there were also learnings that are helpful for us to reflect upon into the future.

I take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the Ministry of

Safeguarding throughout the Diocese. The generosity of so many people giving of their time and effort in this very important aspect of Diocesan life is truly inspiring. I also wish to thank the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee who work tirelessly to ensure that the best standards are in place in all our parishes. Our Director of Safeguarding, Helen Diskin, has brought very valuable experience and professionalism to this role and I appreciate the huge strides she has made since the setting up of the Safeguarding Office in the Diocese. The Diocesan Liaison Person, Anne Leonard and Deputy Liaison Person Sr. Pat Casey have given outstanding service to this ministry, to which I am truly grateful.

As with so many areas of life, we can never become complacent. Having completed the Review, I am confident that the Diocese of Achonry is in a very good place in relation to Safeguarding and I will continue to work very hard to ensure that our commitment to the highest standards of Safeguarding will continue.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Helen Diskin at our Safeguarding Office at Bishop's House, Convent Rd., Ballaghaderreen, (email: safeguarding@achonrydiocese.org or phone: 094 9860034).

Every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Paul Dempsey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

+Paul Dempsey

Bishop of Achonry

ACHONRY DIOCESE SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

Darina Ryan Pilkington (Chair),
Kathryn Collins,
Bishop Paul Dempsey,
Mary Smith,
Sr. Pat Casey (Deputy Liaison Person),
Helen Diskin (Director of Safeguarding),
Anne Leonard (Diocesan Liaison Person).

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of your child while he/she is involved in Church activities, please contact one of the following:

Achonry Diocese Designated Liaison Persons:

Anne Leonard 087 6474136 or Sr. Pat Casey 086 7303076

Tusla Child and Family Agency:

Sligo: 071 9155133

Roscommon: 090 6637528

Mayo: 094 9042283

Garda Confidential Line: 1 800 555222

Achonry Diocesan Website:

www.achonrydiocese.org