

Policy Statement

Safeguarding Children

DIOCESE OF FERNS

The Diocese of Ferns values and encourages the participation of children and young people in parish liturgies and in activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development.

The Diocese recognises the dignity and rights of all children and is committed to their protection and support.

The Diocese undertakes to do all in its power to create a safe environment for children and young people and to ensure their protection from all forms of abuse.

The Diocese is committed to:

1. Creating **SAFE ENVIRONMENTS** for children and young people to participate in Church activities
2. **MINIMISING RISKS**, in order to safeguard the interests of children and young people
3. **Ensuring** that paid employees and volunteer workers are carefully recruited, selected, trained, supported and supervised.
4. **SUPPORTING** victims of abuse.
5. Ensuring that the offenders are held **ACCOUNTABLE** for their actions
6. **REPORTING** all complaints and allegations of abuse to the civil authorities without delay.

If you have any concerns (current or historical) about the welfare of children or young people, please contact one of the following:

Delegate

Ms. Marian Stack
Office: 053 - 9122177
Mobile: 085 - 1055992

Support Person

Sr. Helen O' Riordan
Office: 053-9174972
Mobile: 086-3528613

Civil Authorities

Enniscorthy Gardaí	053-9242580	HSE	053-9233465
Gorey Gardaí	053-9430690	HSE	053-9430100
New Ross Gardaí	051-426030	HSE	053-9123522 Ext 201
Wexford Gardaí	053-9165200	HSE	053-9123522 Ext 201

Our Diocesan Child Protection Policy aims to ensure a safe environment, where risks are minimised, where those affected by abuse are supported, where offenders are brought to account and where all allegations are dealt with justly and promptly.

The Diocese of Ferns is committed to following best practice as outlined in Safeguarding Children (2009) and Children First (2011).

All church personnel must comply with this policy.