

# Child Safeguarding Statement

of the District of Ireland  
**St. Patrick's  
Missionary Society**  
2018



St. Patrick's Missionary Society  
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# Child Safeguarding Statement



## of the District of Ireland **St. Patrick's Missionary Society** 2018



### **CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF IRELAND ST. PATRICK'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

This statement has been prepared to comply with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015 and is derived from Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016.

#### **STATEMENT**

As a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland, we recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children, are committed to ensuring their safety and well being and will work in partnership with parents/ guardians to do this. We recognise each child as a gift from God, and we value and encourage the participation of children in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All Church personnel (including clergy, religious, staff and volunteers) have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

#### **NATURE OF SERVICE AND PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM**

St. Patrick's Missionary Society, District of Ireland as a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland exists to promote the teachings of the Catholic Church. This includes the following ministry with children, as defined in Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016:

- Celebrating the Eucharist and other Sacraments
- Slí an Chroí (Provision of retreat services and accommodation for retreats and counselling services)

#### **The District of Ireland, St. Patrick's Missionary Society Principles to safeguard children from harm are:**

- The commitment to safeguarding children and provide a safe environment;
- The best interest of the child remain paramount;
- The commitment to uphold the right of every child and young person who use our service;
- The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Through training, communication and quality assurance, we will ensure that we create safe environments for children and young people and those who work with them.

- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.
- Mandatory reporting: Each of us has a duty to notify the statutory authorities of suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations that a child is being or has been abused:
  - physically
  - emotionally
  - sexually
  - through neglect.
- Parents/carers have a right to respect and should be consulted with in matters involving their child or family.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents/carers and families.
- Child protection is a multiagency, multidisciplinary activity. Agencies and professionals must work together in the interests of the children.

## AN ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL HARM TO CHILDREN WHILE AVAILING OF OUR SERVICES

We, in the District of Ireland, St. Patrick's Missionary Society have carried out an assessment of any potential harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Unsafe environment for children, clergy and staff	<b>Section 1 Developing a Culture of Safeguarding,</b> Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish District.
Those that work with children/young people are unsafe to do so	<b>Appendix 2 Recruitment &amp; Selection (p17),</b> Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish District.
The environment in which work with children is facilitated fails to meet effective safeguarding practice	<b>Section 1 Developing a Culture of Safeguarding,</b> Safeguarding Policy 7 Procedures 2017, Irish District.
Those that deal with children behave inappropriately with them.	<b>Appendix 3 Codes of Behaviours for Adults (p25)</b> Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish District.
The procedures for safeguarding children fail to be implemented	<b>Appendix 17 Action &amp; Compliance (p82)</b> Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish District.
External groups who use the Society's property are unsafe to do so.	<b>Appendix 9 &amp; 10 (p38 &amp; 39)</b> Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish District.
Personnel fail to report an allegation, suspicion, concern or knowledge appropriately	<b>Appendix 14 Reporting Concerns (p48),</b> Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish District.
The Church authority fails to ensure the appointment of a relevant person and maintain a list of mandated persons	<b>Appendix, 13 and 14</b> Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2017, Irish District.

## PROCEDURES

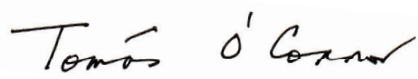
All procedures outlined in the assessment above are available at [www.spms.org](http://www.spms.org) The procedures listed above include the following:

- ▶ Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/ volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- ▶ Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- ▶ Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- ▶ Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- ▶ Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- ▶ Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The District of Ireland, St. Patrick's Missionary Society recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to safeguarding children through the implementation of The District's Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016. This Child Safeguarding Statement and our practice support our desire to keep children safe from harm while in our ministries.

As part of our annual audit against the relevant indicators of the child safeguarding standards, we will review the effectiveness of our practice as outlined in this statement and will revise, as appropriate.

Signed:  Church Authority  
Fr Tomás O'Connor

Date: 9th March 2018

*For any queries relating to this statement please contact  
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