



The Loughshore Parishes of Greencastle, Whitehouse and Whiteabbey

Our Aim is to foster a safe environment for those who are most vulnerable in our parish community, in line with Diocese of Down and Connor Safeguarding Policy and Procedures 2012, currently being revised to meet the standards of the National Board for Safeguarding Children for the Catholic Church in Ireland.

[www.safeguarding .ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie)

Our Parish Safeguarding Committee

Fr David Delargy	PP
Anne Mc Dermott	Whitehouse (Chair)
Pauline O Brien	Greencastle
Margaret Hughes	Whiteabbey
Claire Kelly	Whiteabbey
Patricia Mc Corry	Greenisland
Deepak Dineshan	Whiteabbey

What Does the Parish Safeguarding Committee Do?

1. We review the parish data base and update new information re clergy, staff and volunteers
2. We ensure that every new volunteer and member of staff (working with children and vulnerable adults) is appropriately vetted, attends the relevant training and signs up to a Code of Conduct.
3. We meet annually with all parish groups and individuals to ensure that they have a Code of Conduct in place and note any changes in circumstances. (Parish Audit)
4. We plan how the committee will communicate the work and achievements of the PSC with the parish and who will undertake this
5. We ensure that all diocesan/ parish posters and leaflets are in accessible places in the churches and other parish premises
6. We complete an Annual Parish Safeguarding Report, for the Safeguarding Office, each year in September/ October

A range of guidance documents is available on the Safeguarding Office website <https://downandconnorsafeguarding.com>

Safeguarding Children

A Policy for the Catholic Church in Ireland.

The Diocese of Down and Connor, as part of the Catholic Church in Ireland, recognises and upholds the dignity and rights of all children and is committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this.

The Diocese recognises each child as a gift from God, and we value and encourage the participation of children in all activities which 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.

If you are worried about the safety or well-being of any child or vulnerable adult in our Loughshore Parishes, please contact:

Safeguarding Office: 028 90 49 27 98

Designated Liaison Person for Safeguarding:

Philip O Hara: 07534 992124

PSNI 101

Social Services Regional Number 028 90507000

Out Of Hours Regional Social Work Service 028 9504 9999

NSPCC Helpline 0808 8005000