



**The Irish Region of the Gentili Province
of the
Institute of Charity**

Communications Policy

Children are welcomed, cherished and protected in a manner consistent with their central place in the life of the Church.

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.

The Irish Region of the Gentili Province of the Institute of Charity is deeply committed to the protection and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Our Policy on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Persons contains the standards to which we have committed ourselves in living out our Rosminian vocation. We will strive to constantly support and safeguard those whom we encounter in our ministry and in our daily interactions, especially children and vulnerable adults. We will work to create communities and workplaces that are safe and which respect the dignity of every person at every stage of their lives. The Gentili Province is spread across a number of civil jurisdictions, and our Policy on

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Persons has been designed for all personnel in Ireland, and is tailored to the specific requirements in Ireland.

Our Policy on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Persons is based on the guidelines as outlined in Safeguarding Children - Standards and Guidance Document for the Catholic Church in Ireland (2008) issued by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCI). It has been updated to take account of the national guidance set out in Children First 2011, and with the HSE guidance document "Child Protection and Welfare Practice" Handbook 2012. We undertake to fully report all concerns, suspicions, allegations, and disclosures (current or historical or anonymous) to the civil authorities and Church authorities without delay. All suspicions, concerns, disclosures (current or historical or anonymous) and/or complaints of abuse pertaining to members of our Congregation, our employees or volunteers, should be made to the DLP who will work in conjunction with Tusla and the Gardaí.

1. Our Policy on Safeguarding Children is displayed at the entrance/foyer of every Congregational property or house in Ireland. It is also available via the "Safeguarding" icon on our website (www.rosminians.ie).
2. The Congregation is not currently involved in running or administering any activities or direct services to or for children or young people, however where children come into contact with members of the Congregation or our employees or volunteers, they are made aware of their right to be safe from abuse, and who to speak to if they have concerns. The name and contact details of the DLP are prominently displayed at the entrance/foyer of our Congregational properties. These details are also available on our website (www.rosminians.ie). The email address for the DLP is publicised so anyone can get in contact in writing should they wish.
3. Everyone in our Congregation and who is employed by or volunteers with us knows who the DLP is and how to contact her. The contact details for the civil authorities (Tusla, An Garda Síochána, DHSSPS, PSNI etc.) are prominently displayed at the

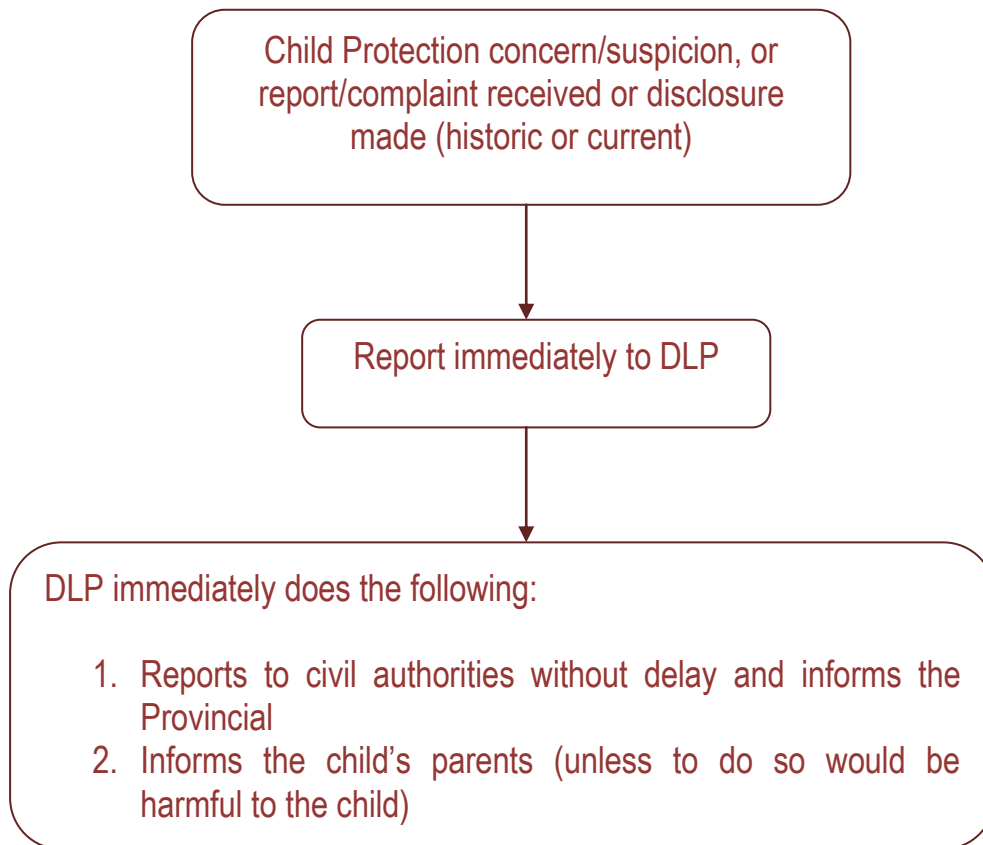
entrance/foyer of all Congregational property as noted above. These details are also available on our website.

4. We operate a policy which reflects a commitment to openness and transparency with the civil authorities and, in particular, the statutory child protection agencies. We endeavour to develop good working relationships with them in order to keep children safe.
5. We work hard to communicate the safeguarding message. We have our own website to communicate and promote the safeguarding message, and information is found by clicking the “Safeguarding” icon on the website homepage. Information about child safeguarding and the important contact details are also displayed in the foyers of our properties.
6. We work hard to promote our Policy on Safeguarding Children, and everyone has clearly defined roles. We work hard to ensure that all members of the Congregation, employees, volunteers, children and parents are aware of and have a good working knowledge of our Policy. This reflects our commitment to transparency and openness. If anyone has a worry or concern, they are encouraged to come to the DLP, or to another member of the Congregation, to an employee or a volunteer to make a complaint or express a concern. Parents/guardians/carers are welcomed and encouraged to provide the Congregation with their views and feedback on our Policy on keeping children safe.
7. The Congregation is not currently involved in running or administering any activities or direct services to or for children or young people. However, in the event that the Congregation ever changes its ministry or the services which it delivers, we will update our Policy accordingly, and undertake that Parents/Guardians will receive a copy of the ‘Anti-Bullying Procedures’ with ‘Parental Consent Forms’ (See Resource 7 of NBSCCCI Safeguarding Children document) and parents/guardians will be asked to sign an ‘Acknowledgement and Acceptance’ of the Anti-Bullying Procedures.



Reporting flow-chart

What should you do if you have a concern, or receive a report/complaint/disclosure?





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Policy

The Irish region of the Gentili Province of the Institute of Charity is committed to promoting the safety, welfare and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and takes all allegations, suspicions and disclosures of abuse very seriously.

Procedure

Children have the right to be listened to and heard, and in particular they have the right to a prompt and effective response to allegations of abuse and suspicions about their safety and welfare. Our policy is to report these allegations and suspicions to the appropriate authorities using reporting procedures that meet all national legal requirements.

Contact Details

Ms Catherine Ryan
Designated Liaison Person
info@rosminians.ie

Fr James Browne
Deputy Designate Liaison Person
jbrowneic@eircom.net