



The Kilmore & Killyleagh Parish Safeguarding Committee has been set up to:

*'ensure that children, young people and adults can engage safely in Parish activities and that those who work with them are aware of and conform to the best practice in safeguarding'*

The Diocese of Down and Connor sets out the Best Practice Policy, Procedures, Codes of Conduct and Training requirements for all those who engage in Parish activities that involves children, young people and adults. These can be viewed on [downandconnorsafeguarding.com](http://downandconnorsafeguarding.com)

We very much appreciate the work of all those who play an active role in serving our children, young people and adults, particularly those who volunteer for roles and give of their free time, experience and expertise.

However, we recognise that there is no substitute for the safeguarding and caring role of families and carers. We wish to work effectively with families, carers and parishioners to ensure a happy caring and safe environment for everyone.

Creating a happy, caring and safe environment, requires us to:

- Ensure the Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and Procedures are implemented.
- Identify the activities within the Parish in which children and vulnerable adults are involved. This includes non-Parish groups and individuals who use Parish premises.
- Ensure that the adults responsible for Parish activities are vetted, abide by the Down and Connor Safeguarding Policies and Procedures, adhere to a Code of Conduct and attend Safeguarding Training.
- Require non-Parish/commercial groups to state that they comply with the above requirements.
- Guide individuals and groups in the best practice for recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers.
- Ensure that staff and volunteers, children, young people, adults and their families / carers know what to do if they suspect that abuse has taken place or have an allegation of abuse disclosed to them.

### Should you have a Safeguarding Concern:

- Contact the Chair or Vice-Chair of our Parish Safeguarding Committee through the Parish Office - Tel: 02844830229
- Should the concern NOT be a Child Protection issue follow the Complaints Procedure available on our Parish Website ([staroftheseakillyleagh.com](http://staroftheseakillyleagh.com)) and on the noticeboard at the back of each church.

Parish Safeguarding Committee members are individuals who have particular interest and/or experience in safeguarding children, young people and adults. Our task in the Kilmore & Killyleagh Parish is to ensure best practice in safeguarding children, young people and adults which seeks to deliver the highest standards of pastoral care.

**Chair:** Mary Jo Bell  
**Vice-Chair:** Patricia Murray  
**Secretary:** Willie Hanna  
**Members:** Fr B Smyth PP,  
Kathryn Clark,  
Barry Fitzpatrick and  
Frances Martin

In order to effectively safeguard our children, young people and adults we require the understanding and support of all parishioners, families and carers.



The Kilmore & Killyleagh Parish Safeguarding Committee wishes to assure all parishioners and volunteers of our continuing support in creating a happy, caring and safe environment for our children, young people and adults.

The Down & Connor Safeguarding Office conducts an annual audit to assist parishes to demonstrate compliance with all standards and to monitor the effectiveness of the steps taken by each parish to keep its children and adults safe.



**Report any suspicions or knowledge of abuse to:**

PSNI	101
Social Services (Regional Out of Hours Service)	028 9504 9999
NSPCC Helpline	0808 800 5000
NEXUS Institute (Sexual Abuse Counselling NI)	028 9032 6803 info@nexusinstitute.org
Towards Healing	Freephone (UK): 0800 0963 315) (Please note that some Mobile Networks may charge for this but Landline calls are free of charge)
Safeguarding Office 511 Ormeau Road BELFAST BT7 3GS	Diocesan Liaison Officer Philip O'Hara 028 9049 2798 office@soddc.org
Designated Officers for Safeguarding Mrs Barbara McDermott	07713642855 barbara.mcdermott@soddc.org
Andrew Thomson	07703395365 andy.thomson@sodd.org
National Board for Safeguarding Children for the Catholic Church in Ireland CEO Mrs Teresa Devlin	00 353 1 505 3124 teresa.devlin@safeguarding.ie

# Kilmore & Killyleagh Parish



## Safeguarding Information