

DIOCESAN POLICY

ON GROUPS USING PARISH PROPERTY TO RUN ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

April 2014

This policy has been developed in consultation with the diocese's insurers and solicitors and has been approved by Archbishop Martin.

The general principle is that the obligation to comply with requirements relating to Garda vetting and child safeguarding rests with the group using parish property, not with the parish.

1. It is the responsibility of any group using parish property to run activities involving children to ensure that they comply with all applicable child safeguarding and protection laws and guidelines.
 2. The group should have a child safeguarding policy and procedures. The group is responsible for liaising with Tusla, the Child and Family Agency which has recently taken over responsibility for child safeguarding and protection from the HSE, to ensure that the policy meets the requirements.
 3. The parish should obtain a copy of the group's child safeguarding policy and keep this on file as evidence that the parish satisfied itself that the group possesses such a policy.
 4. The parish should explain to the group in question that taking a copy of their child safeguarding policy does not imply that the parish endorses it. Such endorsement can only be obtained from Tusla.
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