

Child Protection Risk Assessment (as required under Children First 2015)

Taking Care is the name of the child protection policy and programme of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The kirk session of Donabate Presbyterian Church have carried out an assessment of the potential for harm to children through their involvement in church activities. The following lists the identified risks, and the practices and procedures in place for managing and reducing these risks, based on the Taking Care Two manual.

Risk identified	Practices and procedures in place to manage identified risk (references refer to Taking Care Two – 2010)
<p>1. Children could be exposed through their involvement in congregational activities to people who may harm them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Safe selection and recruitment procedures for those working with children, including vetting of all involved in public ministry and/or having contact with children (chapter 5). ⚡ Supervision and security to prevent contact with strangers (chapter 7.2).
<p>2. Those who work with children could engage in unsafe work practices or behave inappropriately towards them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Code of practice for those working with children (chapter 7). ⚡ Complaints procedures (chapters 3.13.2). ⚡ Appropriate communication with children, including use of social media (chapters 8.4-8.5).
<p>3. Those working with children could operate in unsafe environments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Proper arrangements for activities involving children (chapter 9).
<p>4. Lack of clarity as to who is responsible for what when it comes to child safeguarding and protection in congregations and agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Roles and responsibilities are clearly laid out in procedures document (chapter 4). ⚡ Training, information and advice are provided by Taking Care.
<p>5. Children involved in church activities may not understand what is expected of them in terms of their contact with and behaviour towards each other.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Adults who work with children expected to provide good role models for them (chapter 7). ⚡ Code of behaviour for children involved in church activities (fact sheet 12.22).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∴ Anti-bullying strategies (fact sheet 12.26).
<p>6. Concerns that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected may go undetected and unreported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∴ This statement and the accompanying procedures are circulated to all congregations and available on the web. ∴ Safeguarding information, training and advice provided by Taking Care office. ∴ Taking Care leaflets, statements and summary statements sent to all churches and further copies available on request.
<p>7. Church personnel, whether mandated persons or others, may be unaware of their responsibility, or not supported, to report concerns that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∴ Reporting thresholds and procedures are set out in procedures document and covered in training and information sessions. ∴ Taking Care office available to provide advice, guidance and support. ∴ Joint reports will be made by the Taking Care office and mandated persons, where appropriate, taking account of data protection requirements.
<p>8. Mandated persons may not be aware of their responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∴ Role of mandated person described in procedures document. ∴ Information has been sent to mandated persons and contained in Taking Care Update on a regular basis. ∴ Training and information sessions will be provided. ∴ List of mandated persons is being compiled and will be kept updated.
<p>9. Safeguarding practice in congregations may not be implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∴ Audits of practice carried out by Taking Care office. ∴ Regular audits will be carried out by the Taking Care committee.
<p>10. External groups who use church property are unsafe to do so.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∴ Common protocol for external organisations (chapter 5.5 and fact sheet 12.16).

<p>11. Leaders using electronic communication with children and young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ All such communication with children and young people should, as far as possible, be within an open forum. ⚡ Any photographs of children at church events posted on a social networking site or anywhere on the internet will be done only with parental consent. ⚡ Use of mobile phones should be done in line with the Taking Care guidelines (chapter 8).
<p>12. Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by a visitor to the service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Taking Care Two Policy ⚡ Health and Safety chapter 9 ⚡ Risk Assessment of activities and facilities (form 12.12)
<p>13. Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by a member of staff/ stranger on outings;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Recruitment Procedures (chapter 5) ⚡ Supervision Ratios (section 7.2) ⚡ Risk Assessment for activities (form 12.12)
<p>14. Risk of harm of bullying of a child by a member of staff/ volunteer/ peer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Recruitment Procedures (chapter 5) ⚡ Ongoing training (section 5.3) ⚡ Supervision ratios (section 7.2) ⚡ Code of Conduct and Anti-bullying (section 6 and resource 12.26)

⚡ 4. IMPLEMENTATION

Donabate Presbyterian Church is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the practices and procedures that support our commitment to keeping children safe from harm while engaged in church activities.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed on behalf of kirk session:




 Moderator of Kirk Session Clerk of Session Designated Person

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT SUMMARY

The General Assembly of 2016 agreed the following Taking Care of All statement:

Christ calls us to love, care for and value everyone.



This gospel imperative of loving our neighbour as ourselves leads us to respect all as individuals, treating each with dignity and empowering them to reach their full potential.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland seeks to reflect Christ's compassion for everyone and to safeguard all those who come into contact with the mission and ministries of the Church, by preventing harm and protecting those at risk.

The Taking Care committee of the Council for Social Witness recognises that each child is a gift from God, and values and encourages the participation of children in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All clergy, staff and volunteers have a responsibility to safeguard children and young people who participate in church activities and attend its organisations.

The full statement is in the Taking Care folder and online at www.presbyterianireland.org/takingcare

Your designated person is - Ann Reid

Contactable at donabatepresbyterian@gmail.com

Taking Care office - 048 90417290

Advice Line- 048 90417235

Local Tusla office - 180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin

Phone: (01) 8708000.

Local Garda station – Swords Main Street. (01) 6664700.

Full policy and risk assessments are available from takingcare@presbyterianireland.org

Minister:



Clerk of Session:



Designated Person:

Ann Reid

Date:

16/12/15