

Child Safeguarding Statement of Knock Shrine

This statement has been prepared to comply with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015 and is derived from Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016.

As a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland, Knock Shrine recognises and upholds the dignity and rights of all children, is 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) who work at the Shrine 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.

To ensure the safety of children at Knock Shrine we are committed to the following:

- **Creating and maintaining a safe environment** for all children and for those who work with them
- **Mandatory Reporting** of all suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations of child abuse
- **Communicating** the safeguarding message
- **Caring pastorally** for respondents, complainants and other affected persons

Details of personnel to contact if you are concerned about the welfare and safety of children

Designated Liaison Persons

Mgr John O'Boyle 087-2204741

Mrs Mary Trench 087-9315823

Tusla- Child and Family Agency

Galway 091-546235

Mayo 094-9042284

Gardaí Freephone Confidential Helpline 1800 555 222

National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland 01-5053124

Knock Shrine is committed to safeguarding children through the implementation of *Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016*. This Child Safeguarding Statement and our practice supports our desire to keep children safe from harm while in our ministries. As part of our annual audit against the relevant indicators of the child safeguarding standards, we will review the effectiveness of our practice as outlined in this statement and will revise, as appropriate.

Signed: Richard Gibbons

Fr Richard Gibbons, PP, Rector, Knock Shrine

Date: 10 March 2018