

## **AN CLOCHAR CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT**

As a faith based group we seek to advance the Catholic religion with a particular focus on the vocation and mission of Catholics. An Clochar has adopted with permission *The Safeguarding Children Policy* of the Archdiocese of Tuam which has been prepared by the Tuam Diocesan Safeguarding Committee, 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.

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We value and encourage the participation of children/young people

Our mission work is informed by the three Gospel principles of Truth, Justice and Love

We recognize the dignity and rights of all children/young people/vulnerable adults/elderly and are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being

The welfare of the child must always be paramount

We acknowledge that all who work with children/young people have a special duty of care towards them

Leaders must create a safe environment for children/young people in order to secure their protection

An Clochar has adopted The Safeguarding Children Policy of the Archdiocese of Tuam as its guiding policy which applies to all adults, paid or voluntary, who work with children, young people, or vulnerable adults and also to the children/young people in their care.

This policy applies to all trustees, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of or representing An Clochar.

### **The purpose of this policy is:**

- To protect children and young people who may come in contact with An Clochar. This includes the children of adults who are in contact with An Clochar.
- To provide trustees and volunteers with the principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection

An Clochar believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Leaders who work with children/young people in church-related activities should seek to create a safe and secure environment in which all children/young people in their care will flourish.

It is important that children/young people know the limits and boundaries appropriate to their own behaviour and that leaders are aware of the very best principles of good practice

Children should be regularly made aware that if they are unhappy about how they are being treated they should immediately tell their parents or a responsible adult.

The following Code of Conduct will be in place for all church related activities which involve children/young people:

- Children/young people will be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity.
- Leaders should avoid developing favouritism or becoming overly involved with any one child.
- Bullying of any form (verbal, psychological or physical) will not be tolerated.
- Use of information technology - such as mobile phones, email, digital cameras and the internet, should be carefully monitored.
- There will be an adequate ratio of leaders to children/young people at all times. The recommended minimum adult/young person ratio in any group should be one adult per group of ten plus one other adult, and allowing an additional adult for each group of ten thereafter.
- Mixed gender groups will have an appropriate number of male and female leaders.

Local circumstances, the ages of the children, the experience of the volunteers and the staff should be taken into consideration. Safety, ability/disability of young people and the nature of the activities being undertaken may require that these ratios be considerably lower.