

**ACHONRY DIOCESE:
3-YEAR STRATEGIC
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PLAN**

2025 to 2027



Diocese of Achonry - 3-year Strategic Safeguarding Children Plan

2025 to 2027

Standard	No.	Specific Objective - Indicators	Action Required	Responsibility	Status
1: Nurturing a Culture of Safeguarding	S.1A	The Diocese of Achonry will follow effective practice guidelines and legislative requirements in the recruitment of all Church personnel in assessing their suitability to work with children in the Diocese.	All staff, clergy, and volunteers (those individuals identified as having regular ministry with children) will go through the safe recruitment procedures . See National Board Guidance S1.A and S1.B . Visiting Priests require Celebret and/or Letter of Good-standing. S6.G Register for Priests from outside the Diocese, retired/resident and ministering here.	Safeguarding Committee/ Director	All Diocesan staff have gone through the safe recruitment procedures to date. All Diocesan Clergy re-vetted Sep 2022. Due to be revetted in Septmber 2025. All Diocesan Clergy re-vetted. Vetting now expires in 2028. We follow NBSCCCI procedures for visiting clergy Register to be reviewed and vetting updated as required.
	S2.B	The Diocese of Achonry ensures delivery at a local level of basic training programs that are identified and approved by the National Board, as outlined in the National Board's Training Strategy, where this has been identified as necessary through the annual training-needs analysis.	Parish Self –Audits were sent out in January 2024, Jan 2025 and Jan 26. We collated the information on these forms we are able to compile lists of people who need to be trained in parish.	Director of Safeguarding/ Safeguarding Committee/ Registered Trainers	On-going. Training Plan to be reviewed annually after parish audit. Training will continue as needed.

Diocese of Achonry - 3-year Strategic Safeguarding Children Plan

	S2.B	The Diocese of Achonry ensures that Church personnel who have specific child safeguarding responsibilities have appropriate, role-specific training, identified and approved by the National Board, as outlined in the National Board's Training Strategy.	We will attend Training provided by the NBSCCCI and any other training that is relevant to Safeguarding roles and structures. These Training Programmes will be covered in our Training Plan.	Bishop/DOS/ Safeguarding Committee/ Registered Trainers/DLPs/ Advisor/ Support Person	On-going. We will attend all trainings facilitated by the NBSCCCI when possible.
	S2.C	The Diocese of Achonry provides children who access Church-related activities and their parents/guardians with information, advice and support on keeping children safe, and involves them in Church child safeguarding training initiatives wherever possible and appropriate.	The Diocese of Achonry has produced and updated printed information pamphlet for children and their parents. Induction Training happens at Parish level for children's activities in the Diocese.	Director of Safeguarding/ Safeguarding Committee/ PP/ LSR.	On-going. Updating/printing of Information Publications Done in Feb 2025. Information leaflets are distributed at altar server/choir induction evenings. DOS will attend if requested by PP.
	S.3.A	The Diocese of Achonry will implement effective practice on the expected standards of adults' behaviour towards children in the Diocese.	All adults working with children in the Diocese receive training on our Code of Behaviour. See National Board Guidance S3.A	Safeguarding Committee/ Director/ Trainers	This will be discussed at all trainings. We are compiling a new updated version of the parish handbook which includes a section on codes of behaviour. All staff, clergy and volunteers will receive a copy in due course at training . It will also be available to download.

Diocese of Achonry - 3-year Strategic Safeguarding Children Plan

	S.3.B	The Diocese of Achonry will implement effective practice in encouraging children's positive behavior.	Children taking part in ministry in the Diocese of Achonry receive positive encouragement and discuss our Code of Behaviour at initiation. See N.B. Guidance S3.B	Director of Safeguarding/ LSR., PP	On-going. Communication, Information and Training.
Standard	No.	Specific Objective - Indicators	Action Required	Responsibility	Status
Nurturing a culture of Safeguarding continued.....	S.8A	The Church body implements effective practice in safe care for all children, including those with specific needs	The Diocese will provide opportunities for an inclusive environment for children and have procedures in place for the participation of children with specific needs. See Nat. Board guidance S8.A	Director/ Safeguarding Committee/PP	On-going/when needed.
	S6.A	The Diocese of Achonry will ensure that the safe use of Church property by external groups complies with effective child safeguarding practice.	See Nat. Board guidance S6.A and form (SG-07) on the use of Church property by external groups in Parish Handbook. Included as part of Training.	Director/ Safeguarding Committee/ Trainers/ Parish Priest	On-going. Always discussed at training and on parish support visits.
	S9.A	The Diocese of Achonry has in place clearly written whistle-blowing procedures which supports and assists Church personnel to raise concerns about possible dangerous or unethical conduct by others	Refer to our Whistle-blowing Policy See National Board Guidance S9.A . Included as part of Training.	Director/ Safeguarding Committee/ Trainers	Ongoing. Will always be referred to as part of training.

Diocese of Achonry - 3-year Strategic Safeguarding Children Plan

		towards children involved in Church activities.			
	S9.B	The Diocese of Achonry has a clearly written complaints procedure regarding safeguarding concerns that are not allegations of abuse.	Refer to our Complaints Procedure as per National Board Guidance S9.B . Part of training.	Director/ Trainers/ PP/LSR	Ongoing. Form SG05 available for this purpose
Standard	No.	Specific Objective - Indicators	Action Required	Responsibility	Status
Nurturing a culture of safeguarding continued.....	S5.A	The Diocese of Achonry will implement effective practice for Church personnel on assessment of hazards when working with children.	Nat. Board Guidance S5.A and form SG-06) on risk assessment of activities with children. Discuss at training and parish visits.	Director/ Safeguarding Committee/ Trainers	Always discussed at parish visits. Form SG06 completed and reviewed annually. On-going.
	S7	The Diocese of Achonry will implement effective practice for the appropriate use of information technology, including social media by Church personnel and by children.	Guidance on the use of technology. Refer to Nat. Board Guidance S7.A,B,C,D and E . Discuss at training and parish visits	Director/ Safeguarding Committee. Trainer/PP	Ongoing.

Diocese of Achonry - 3-year Strategic Safeguarding Children Plan

	S6.F	The Diocese of Achonry has responsibility for ensuring that all clerics/religious, who are members of the Church body and ministering with children in an external organization / Church body, agree to follow effective safeguarding practice.	Safe Recruitment/ Vetting and Training. See Nat. Board Guidance S6.F	Bishop/ Director / Safeguarding Committee	On-going.
Standard	No.	Specific Objective - Indicators	Action Required	Responsibility	Status
2: Responding pastorally and reporting according to civil and canon law	R1.A	The Diocese of Achonry has clearly written Child Safeguarding procedures and access to the personnel to implement them if suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations are received about an abuse of a child.	We refer to National Board Guidance R1.A . Key personnel will attend training frequently as required.	Director of Safeguarding/ Safeguarding Committee. Trainer.	On-going.
	R3.A	The Diocese of Achonry records all suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations and action is taken which complies with data protection legislation, statutory compliance on confidentiality and storage of information.	See Nat. Board Guidance R3.A and review current practice since the introduction of Data Protection Legislation in May 2018. Regular contact with Data Protection Officer (DPO)	Bishop/DLPs, Director of Safeguarding and Safeguarding Committee	On-going. Data reviewed locally and nationally in line with new data protection requirement Maintain regular contact with DPO.

Diocese of Achonry - 3-year Strategic Safeguarding Children Plan

	R3.B	The Diocese of Achonry shares information about child safeguarding concerns, suspicions, knowledge or allegations with those who need to know, in order to keep children safe.	See Section R3.B of Nat. Board Guidance. Information is shared with Church Authority; Statutory Authorities: Gardaí and Tusla; NBSCCCI as appropriate.	DLPs	On-going. Immediately on a need to know basis.
	R4.A	The Diocese of Achonry offers appropriate pastoral care and support to the complainant, which recognises their unique needs.	See NB Guidance R4.A	Bishop/DLP/ Director of Safeguarding	As required.
Responding pastorally and reporting according to civil and canon law continued.....	R4.A	The Diocese of Achonry has access to appropriately train personnel - lay, religious or clergy - who's clearly defined role is to listen to and represent the pastoral needs of the complainant.	Support Person should continue to attend NBSCCCI Training to keep up to date on their specific role.	Director of Safeguarding/ Safeguarding Committee.	On-going. Kathryn Collins appointed by Bishop as Support Person for the Diocese of Achonry.
	R8.C	The Diocese of Achonry works in co-operation with relevant organisations and seeks specialist advice from the statutory child protection services when necessary.	The Diocese will seek to build up a good working relationship with TUSLA in as far as this is possible. The Diocese will also build up relationships with the following organisations: Towards Healing, Towards Peace, (supporting victims), and the Gardai. The Diocese will liaise with other DLP'S who have mutual clients/ crossover of clients in line with Data Protection.	Director of Safeguarding/ DLPs	The diocese will liaise with the Statutory Authorities and Tusla on a case by case basis, for advice where needed. Contact with Towards Healing on a case by case basis as required. Regular contact with other DLPs at Training and DLP network group, etc.

Diocese of Achonry - 3-year Strategic Safeguarding Children Plan

					On-going.
	R7.A	The Diocese of Achonry has access to appropriately trained personnel, who's clearly defined roles are to listen to and represent the pastoral needs of the respondent. This is done in consultation with the respondent.	The Advisor appointed by the Diocese should attend NBSCCCI Training to keep up to date on their specific role.	Director of Safeguarding/ Safeguarding Committee	On-going. The Bishop delegates the role of Advisor to Fr. Padraig Costello, the priest in the Diocese responsible for the ministry of Care for Priests.
Responding pastorally and reporting according to civil and canon law continued...	R8.A	The Diocese of Achonry has arrangements in place to inform the respondent that an allegation has been received about them, and has a procedure for deciding whether an interim management plan needs to be put in place for the respondent.	The Diocese of Achonry follows the NBSCCCI Guidance R8A. when caring for and managing Respondents.	Bishop/DLPs/ Director of Safeguarding/ Safeguarding Committee	On-going/when needed.
	R8.C	When statutory authority investigations and assessments have been completed, the Diocese of Achonry resumes the preliminary investigation/collecting the proofs as provided for in Canon 1717 (1)-(3) (cleric) and Canon 695 (non-ordained religious).	The Diocese of Achonry follows the NBSCCCI Guidance for managing Respondents. R8.C	Bishop/DLP'S/ Director of Safeguarding/ Safeguarding Committee	On-going/when needed.

Diocese of Achonry - 3-year Strategic Safeguarding Plan

Standard	No.	Specific Objective - Indicators	Action Required	Responsibility	Status
3. Leadership, Governance and Accountability	L4.B	The Diocese of Achonry takes responsibility to ensure that the induction of all personnel – lay, religious or clergy – includes training in the Church’s child safeguarding policy and procedures.	See Nat. Board Guidance L4.B . See Achonry Diocese Training Plan 2025 to 2027.	Director of Safeguarding/ Safeguarding Committee/ Trainers.	On-going.
Leadership, Governance and Accountability continued....	L4.A	The Diocese of Achonry conducts an annual training-needs analysis that identifies all Church personnel who require training and develops a training plan based on this.	Parish Self-Audits were sent out in Jan 2024, 2025 and 2026. We collated the information on these forms and were able to compile lists of people who need to be trained.	Director of Safeguarding/ Safeguarding Committee/ Registered Trainers	Training Plan to be reviewed annually after parish audits. Training ongoing and will continue as needed.
	L4.B	The Diocese of Achonry facilitates the provision of an appropriate level of support to all involved with the Church in relation to their responsibilities to safeguard children.	Safeguarding Children Parish Handbook (updated) available late 2026 from the Diocesan Website, Annual Training for Priests/Reps. NBSCCCI Training and Guidance. Diocesan Newsletters. Safeguarding Notices. Information Publications. Diocese of Achonry Safeguarding Office.	Bishop/ Director of Safeguarding/ Safeguarding Committee	On-going.

Diocese of Achonry - 3-year Strategic Safeguarding Plan

	L1.A	The Diocese of Achonry has a written plan, which details how the Church's child safeguarding message will be communicated.	See Nat. Board Guidance L1.A. and Communications Plan for 2025 to 2027	Director of Safeguarding/ Safeguarding Committee	To be approved annually by Safeguarding Committee at meetings.
	L1.D	The Diocese of Achonry makes information regarding how to safeguard children available to all including people whose first language is not English.	Diocesan Website, Social Media, Parish Handbook, Safeguarding Checklist for Parishes, Posters, Information Leaflets, Safeguarding Notices with QR code for accessing information in different languages , Celebret Notices, Safeguarding Newsletters	Director of Safeguarding / Safeguarding Committee	Available
	L2.B L2.C	The Diocese of Achonry will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • put in place arrangements to ensure and evaluate its compliance with the safeguarding standards at a local level; • produce a report on the level of compliance established through this audit exercise; 	Annual Self-Audit for Parishes and letter from Bishop Kevin Doran to the NBSCCCI stating that self-audits have been done. Parish Support Visit once a year to each Parish in the Diocese by the Director of Safeguarding.	Bishop/ Director of Safeguarding / Safeguarding Committee	Annually.

Diocese of Achonry - 3-year Strategic Safeguarding Plan

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notify the National Board in writing of the completion of this annual audit report. 			
	L2.E	<p>The Diocese of Achonry will produce a three-year child safeguarding plan that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outlines the actions that will be taken to keep children safe; • identifies who is responsible for implementing these actions; • specifies the time frame within which actions are completed; • identifies the resources to ensure that the plan's objectives are realised. 	Compile a 3-year Strategic Safeguarding Children Plan 2024 - 2027	Director of Safeguarding/ Safeguarding Committee	<p>Strategic Plan 25 to 2027 approved /reviewed /updated by the Safeguarding Committee annually</p> <p>Next plan to be prepared for 2027 to 2030.</p>
	L5.A?	The Diocese of Achonry will invite the National Board to carry out an independent review of its safeguarding practice in relation to the applicable indicators of the seven safeguarding standards, in accordance with standard terms of reference at a frequency agreed with the National Board.	Next review possibly due in 2027	Bishop	1st Audit in 2013. 2 nd Audit in 2022.

Diocese of Achonry - 3-year Strategic Safeguarding Plan

What resources are needed to carry out the child safeguarding plan?

- Bishop
- Director of Safeguarding
- Safeguarding Committee
- Parish Structures: Parish Priests/Priests/ Safeguarding Representatives/Volunteers
- 2 DLPs
- 1-2 Trainers
- Advisor/Support Person
- Regular meetings with TUSLA (Under review)
- Safeguarding budget to meet the Training Plan
- Safeguarding budget for Safeguarding Personnel (inclusive of DLP work and monitoring)
- Safeguarding budget to meet Communications Plan
- Western Province Vetting Service (including employment of staff)
- Western Province Advisory Group
- Website
- Communication
- Publications
- Safeguarding Budget for Support Organisations eg. Towards Healing, Towards Peace

Diocese of Achonry - 3-year Strategic Safeguarding Plan

Signed _____

Title: _____

Review date: 19/5/2025

Review date: _____

Review date: _____

Review date: _____

Review date: _____

Review date: _____