

Child Safeguarding Statement

Clonmel Baptist Church

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Elders of Clonmel Baptist Church has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

- 1 The Elders have adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017
- 2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is: ___Dr. Seamus Engela_____
- 3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is: ___Barbara Brennan_____
- 4 The Elders recognise that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of church life and must be reflected in all of the church's policies, procedures, practices and activities. The church will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare. The church will:
 - a. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
 - b. fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
 - c. fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
 - d. adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect leaders and helpers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect
 - e. develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the supervision of their children; and
 - f. fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters

The church will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult with a special vulnerability.

- 5 The following procedures/measures are in place:
 - a. In relation to any member of the church who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the church, the church adheres to the relevant procedures set out in the Children First :National Guidance for the protection and Welfare of Children
 - b. In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff, leaders and helpers and their suitability to work with children, the church adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the DES and available on the DES website

- c. In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary instruction and training to staff, leaders and helpers in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the church
 - i. Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the church's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - ii. Ensures all new staff, leaders and helpers are provided with a copy of the church's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - iii. Encourages staff, leaders and helpers to avail of relevant training
 - iv. Encourages Elders and members to avail of relevant training
 - v. The Elders maintain records of all staff, leaders, helpers and church member training.
- d. In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all church personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children.
- e. In this church, the Elders have appointed the above named DLP as the 'relevant person' (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the church's child safeguarding statement.

6. In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Elders have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the church or participating in church activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the church's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to these procedures

7. The various procedures referred to in this Statement will be made available on request by the church.

8. This statement has been published on the church's website and has been provided to all members. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

9. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Elders of Clonmel Baptist on

...25/10/2018

Signed: [Signature]

Elder

Date: 25/10/2018

Signed: Mathew Brennan

Elder

Date: 25/10/2018

Signed: [Signature]

Elder

Date: 25/10/2018