

# Child Safeguarding Policy Statement of the Diocese of Down and Connor

The Diocese of Down and Connor, as part of the Catholic Church in Ireland, recognises and upholds the dignity and rights of all children and is committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this. The Diocese recognises each child as a gift from God, and we value and encourage the participation of children in all activities which enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All Church personnel (including clergy, religious, staff and volunteers) 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.

## DETAILS OF PERSONNEL TO CONTACT IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN

### DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

Philip O'Hara / Barbara McDermott tel: 028 9049 2798 (9am-5pm) | mob: 07534 992 124 | email: [office@soddc.org](mailto:office@soddc.org)

### POLICE

PSNI tel: 101

### CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

Belfast Trust Gateway Service tel: 028 9050 7000 (office hours)  
Regional Emergency Social Work Service tel: 028 9054 9999 (out of hours)