



Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

Child Safeguarding Statement

Cork Nations Church acknowledges God's love for all people and our responsibility as a Christian community to extend our love in God's name to all who come into contact with our church.

An important expression of that love is to provide a safe environment for all people who are involved in our church. Children are a gift of God and we have a particular responsibility to them, to provide a safe and nurturing environment within which they are protected from all forms of harm and are fully supported to grow in faith and discipleship.

We are committed to the full implementation of the Cork Nations Church Child Safety and Welfare Guidelines within all of our church operations.

In particular we:

- Exercise due diligence in the selection and ongoing supervision of staff and volunteers to undertake key roles in the church, particularly those involving responsibilities for children
- Equip our people in leadership positions with the knowledge and skills to ensure a safe environment within church activities; to recognise the signs that harm may have occurred or has the potential to occur to someone involved in those activities; and to take the appropriate actions in relation to those concerns
- Promote an atmosphere of love, openness and trust throughout all church activities so that all children, families and others feel valued, respected and able to raise issues of concern about matters directly affecting them or concerns they have about others
- Provide avenues through which all people involved in the church may raise concerns or complaints knowing that they will be taken seriously and dealt with respectfully and confidentially
- Continually monitor and review our Safer Church strategies to ensure that we are employing an effective and contemporary range of measures to adequately protect people within our church
- Provide a key point of contact and information in relation to Child Safety and Welfare through the position of Designated Liaison Officer.

We pray that with the support of God's wisdom and grace we will continue to be successful in providing a loving and safe environment for all who come into contact with our church.

Our Commitment

Cork Nations Church is committed to the safety and equity of vulnerable people, including children and young people, the elderly, people with disabilities, and people with identity and mental health challenges.



As an organisation that works with children, we are committed to Child Safe Principals. We seek to embed the safety of vulnerable people in organisational leadership, governance and culture. We seek to ensure that physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing for all involved.

We are committed to ensuring that all our volunteers and staff are appropriately screened and trained.

It's important that everyone in our community, including children and young people, are informed about their rights, and participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously. Added to this, we want families and communities to be informed and involved in promoting the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable people.

Raising Concerns

We encourage people at all levels of the organisation and in our community to report any concerns they have about the safety and wellbeing of people. We are committed to handling all concerns seriously, legally and in a child-focused way (if concerning children).

If you have any concerns about the safety of someone at Cork Nations Church we strongly encourage you to share your concern with our Designated Liaison Person.

Designated Liaison Person:

Name – Rowland Murphy
Mobile- 0894685933
Email - rmurphy@nationschurch.com

Deputy Designated Liaison Person:

Name – Leanne Murphy
Mobile- 0894685047
Email – lmurphy@nationschurch.com

Where the Designated Liaison Person and the Deputy Designated Liaison Person are unavailable, then it will be decided who will deputise.

Our Service

Our primary services are Sprouts (1-3 yrs), Rockets (3-5 yrs), Jump (5-12 yrs), which take place during a Sunday Church service. During this time, the children will be supervised by designated 'Children's Ministry Workers' whilst their parents/guardians participate in the main service. We currently meet *at 11am on Sundays at the Cork International Hotel.*



Cork Nations Church Statement to Children First

In 2017, the Department for Children and Youth Affairs released a revised version of Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, and it is this guidance upon which our child protection and welfare policies and practices are based. It states: Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding, they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives. At Cork Nations Church, we commit to upholding this right, along with that of the parents and/or guardians to be respected and consulted in all matters that involve their children. We also commit to being in full compliance with Children First and any applicable legislation. One of our primary objectives is to, as far as practicable, ensure that the children in our care are safe from harm.

The Children First Act (2015) defines this as: in relation to a child-

- (a) assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, or
- (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise'.

Policies

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm during our programs. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed within two years, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.