



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND

**National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland
Training and Support Strategy 2026-2028**

Introduction

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland's (NBSCCCI) training and support strategy for 2026-2029 is informed by the NBSCCCI's Operational plan 2025-2028. This training and support strategy contributes to the delivery of the functions of the NBSCCCI, which was established to provide advice, services, and assistance to constituent members of the Catholic Church in furtherance of the development of the safeguarding of children within the Roman Catholic Church on the island of Ireland. The NBSCCCI also has a role in monitoring Church bodies compliance with legislation, policy, and best practice and is required to report upon activities of the Company and the cooperation which it receives in respect of such activities to the extent that such activities are always and in all respects carried out with due regard to the doctrines and applicable Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church.

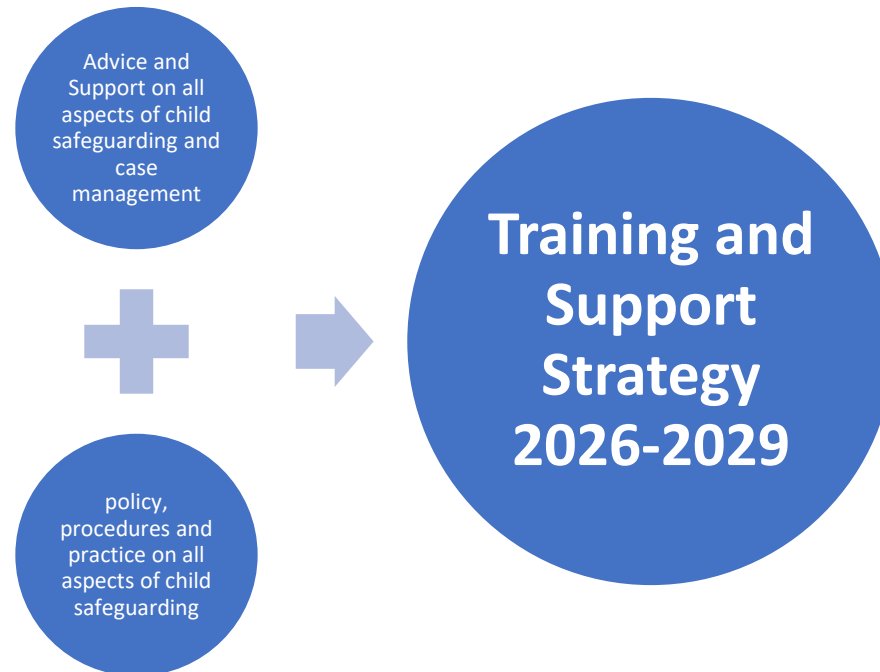
This Training and Support strategy outlines how the training function within the NBSCCCI will support and meet the objectives of the operational plan. Like previous training and support plans, this strategy builds upon existing safeguarding structures and training.

Aim

To support the objectives of the NBSCCCI in contributing to the improvement of child protection and safeguarding within the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Objectives

1. Provide Advice and Support on all aspects of child safeguarding and case management within the Catholic Church in Ireland.
2. Development of policy, procedures, and practice on all aspects of child safeguarding within the Catholic Church in Ireland.
3. Monitoring the child safeguarding practice of constituent members within the Catholic Church in Ireland.
4. Establishing and running the National Office, legally, efficiently, and effectively for our constituent members and sponsoring bodies.



While this training and support strategy supports all objectives, much of our practical elements within training and support fall into the 1st and 2nd objectives.

1. Provide Advice and Support on all aspects of child safeguarding and case management within the Catholic Church in Ireland.

2. Development of policy, procedures, and practice on all aspects of child safeguarding within the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Vision

Pope Francis said ‘Our generation will show that it can rise to the promise found in each young person when we know how to give them space. This means that we have to create the material and spiritual conditions for their full development; to give them a solid basis on which to build their lives; to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be; to pass on to them lasting values that make life worth living; to give them a transcendent horizon for their thirst for authentic happiness and their creativity for the good; to give them the legacy of a world worthy of human life; and to awaken in them their greatest potential as builders of their own destiny, sharing responsibility for the future of everyone. If we can do all this, we anticipate today the future that enters the world through the window of the young.’

The NBSCCCI in its work since its establishment, has supported the Church to create structures that safeguard Children. In 2024, the revised Child Safeguarding policy was published, which seeks to ensure that safeguarding is comprehensively supported by three standards: Leadership, Governance and Accountability, Nurturing a Culture of Safeguarding and Responding Pastorally according to Civil and Canon Law.





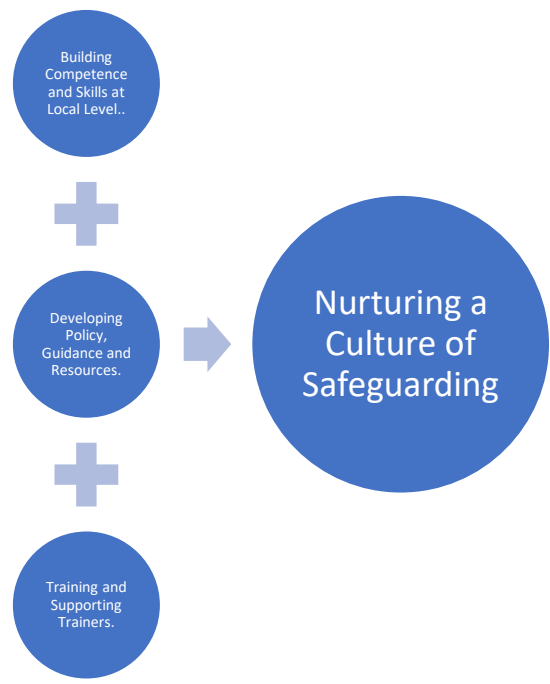
Standard: Leadership, Governance and Accountability

	Measurable actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating National Training Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through opportunities for engagement such as metropolitan meetings, evaluations from training sessions, one-to-one meetings with Church leaders, and leaders within the area of safeguarding, create a calendar of national events each year. The Calendar of events will seek to support and upskill Church



	<p>Leaders on the issues that impact the safeguarding of Children within the Church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calendar of events to be published on the events section of the website in January each year.• Communicate any National Training events through the website, newsletter/ E-zine.• Following national training events, review evaluation sheets to ensure the training was appropriate to the needs of those in attendance.• Training for new church authorities• Ongoing consultation with state agencies, other faith bodies, NGO's, on a national and international level to meet training needs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitating National Formation Programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual review of the training needs within each formation program.• Annual meeting with coordinators of the formation programs to review the program and agree on delivery plans for each academic year.• Deliver 5 modules each year between each of the formation programs.• Review of evaluations of each training session to ensure the program continues to meet the needs of participants in increasing their understanding of child safeguarding structures in Ireland.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting Child Safeguarding Internationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek opportunities and or continue to share learning and resources with other Church and State bodies, national and international.• Deliver training to Loreto House and SPCM in their Pastoral Theology and Youth Ministry programs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to Religious Orders ministering internationally through their safeguarding committee training when requested.
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Standard: Nurturing a Culture of Safeguarding.

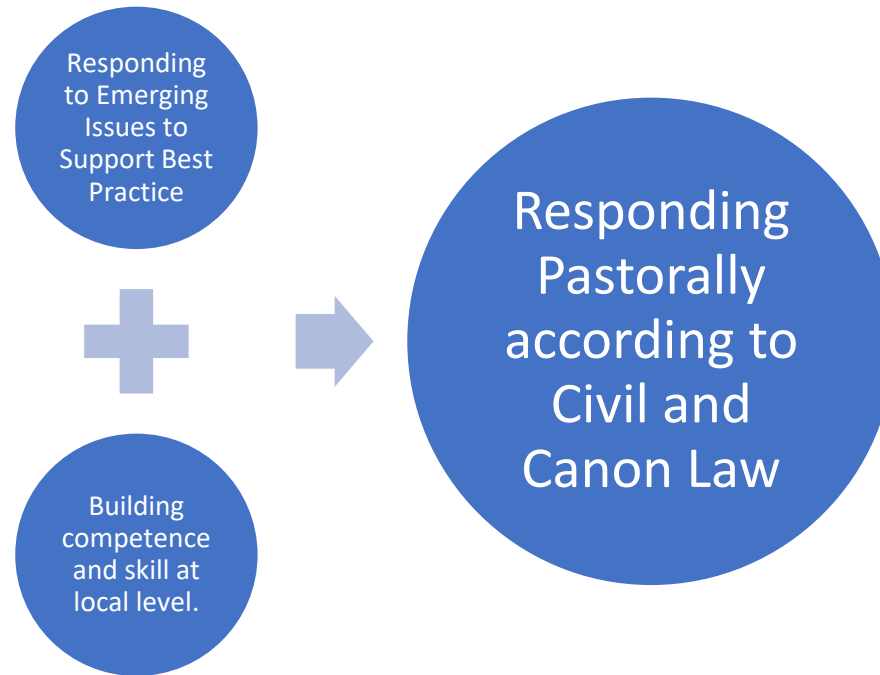
	Measurable actions
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Competence and Skills at Local Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer training to Safeguarding committees that reflects on meeting the criteria of <i>A Safe and Welcoming Church; Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024</i>.• DLP training for new DLPs to be facilitated twice each year, with dates set out at the start of each year.• Training for advisory panels
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing Policy, Guidance and Resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to update the guidance and resources as changes occur across national legislation in the Republic and in the North of Ireland.• Transfer the newsletter into an E-zine that contains more visuals and a magazine-like layout with a broader range of content that will also encourage Church Authorities to contribute articles on what they are doing to promote safeguarding locally.• Ensure the E-zine reflects available resources to build safeguarding knowledge across the Church.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training and Supporting Trainers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring that each area of the country is represented by a Tutor linking with the NBSCCCI (Across 4 Archdiocese = 4)• Engagement with Tutors to establish trainer concerns and to ensure adequate training for Trainers. Tutors to be invited to meet with the Director of training a minimum of 3 times a year.• Redevelopment of the Training re-assessment for NBSCCCI accredited trainers that will take into account in-person training skills, CPD, Engagement on skill building, and the number of times the training is delivered annually.• Train the Train to be delivered yearly in locations countrywide that are based on the needs of each area. Train the Trainer to be



	<p>promoted from the yearly training calendar and dates to be published in January each year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring that each Diocese and Religious Order has access to appropriate numbers of trainers. Support and encouragement should be provided from the NBSCCCI, where there is a lack of trainers• Annual opinion-seeking surveys/ meetings to be held with the trainers to ensure their opinions, experience, and knowledge are fed into the training being created.• Access to a platform of continued professional development will be provided to trainers.• Continued professional development to include information sessions on the challenges faced by children and young people in Ireland today.• Promote the skill, engagement, and work of NBSCCCI accredited trainers by creating a space in the Newsletter/E-zine and on the website to introduce them to the wider Church constituency.
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Standard: Responding Pastorally according to Civil and Canon Law

	Measurable actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to Emerging Issues to Support Best Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate and report back on appropriate network and support groups to develop best practices. Develop GAP and briefing papers as necessary to ensure safeguarding children practice is informed by developments nationally and internationally.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate 4 ecclesiastical provincial area meetings annually to ensure that each Church body feels connected and able to contribute to the work of the National Board.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building competence and skill at local level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure the Information session training, the Full child safeguarding training, and the refresher training are reviewed and refreshed based on changes across national legislation and



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