

Risk Assessment for the Lutheran Church in Ireland

This assessment considers the potential for harm as defined by the Children First Act to come to children whilst they are in the care of the Lutheran Church in Ireland. This assessment must be done before the Child Safeguarding Statement (Section 11 (1b) Children First Act 2015) is published locally. In accordance with the requirements of *Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015* the risk is of abuse and is not general health and safety risk. “Harm” in this context means, (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.

Potential risk of harm to children as defined in the Children First Act in 2015	Likelihood of harm happening (L-M-H)	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility	Further action required...
Harm caused by clergy/ staff / volunteer to children	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children First Training ■ Child Protection Policy ■ Safeguarding Statement ■ Risk Assessment 		
Harm caused by a visitor to child	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child Protection Policy (esp. section 4, 6 & 8) ■ Children First Training 		
Harm caused by a child to another child	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children First Training ■ Child Protection Policy (esp. section 7) 		
No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Public display of Child Safeguarding Statement ■ Child Protection Policy (esp. section 6) published online 		
Risk of harm to a child during travelling and away trips/overnights	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children First Training ■ Child Protection Policy (esp. section 9) ■ Travel/Away trip guidance 		

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Lack of child protection training/guidance	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children First Training ■ Child Protection Policy (esp. section 5) 		
Supervision/ratio issues including gender balance among leaders	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child Protection Policy (esp. section 8) ■ Children First Training 		
SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER MEDIA				
Access to and inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18's	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child Protection Policy (esp. section 10) 		
Risk to under 18's by others inappropriate use of social media and communications with under 18's	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child Protection Policy (esp. section 10) 		
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Child Protection Policy (esp. section 10) 	Clergy / Staff / Volunteers on site	During major public events, appropriate notices must be provided to visitors.
REPORTING PROCEDURES				
Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children First Training ■ Child Protection Policy (esp. Section 11 & 12) ■ Public Display of DLP and other contact information 		
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children First Training ■ Child Protection Policy (esp. Section 11 & 12) 		

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Not clear who child/YP should talk to or report to	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Display of DLP and other contact information 		
COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE				
Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children First Training Child Protection Policy (esp. Section 11 & 12) Public Display of DLP and other contact information 		
Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent Reason: Covered above	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children First Training Child Protection Policy (esp. Section 11 & 12) Public Display of DLP and other contact information 		
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children First Training Child Protection Policy (esp. Section 11 & 12) Public Display of DLP and other contact information 		
MANAGING RISK OF HARM IN SPECIFIC LOCATIONS				
Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Protection Policy (esp. section 8) 		
Unauthorised exit from children's areas which leads to lack of supervision, e.g. in the garden, kitchen etc.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Protection Policy (esp. section 8) 	Clergy / Staff / Volunteers on site	The magnet lock on the main door leading to the street should be engaged at all times.

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Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Protection Policy (esp. section 10) 		
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Protection Policy (esp. Section 6, 8 & 9) 	Booking Manager	While groups of children are in the building, no other rooms may be booked by others.
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement Child Protection Policy 		

Explanation of terms used:

- **Potential risk of harm to children** – these are identified risks of harm to children whilst accessing activities in the Parish
- **Likelihood of harm happening** – the likelihood of the risk occurring in the Parish measured by you as Low/Medium or High.
- **Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document** – indication of the policy and associated procedures required to alleviate the risk.
- **Responsibility** – provider should indicate where the responsibility for alleviating the risk lies.
- **Further action...** - indicates further action that might be necessary to alleviate any on-going risk.

This Risk Assessment document has been discussed and completed by Franziska Fabich and Florian von Issendorff as the relevant service on 6 December, 2025. It was reviewed by members of the church council and adopted by the church council on 4 February, 2026.

Signed:

Name: Franziska Fabich
 Role: Designated Liaison Person
 Date: 4 February, 2026

Signed:

Name: Florian von Issendorff
 Role: Lead Pastor
 Date: 4 February, 2026