Child Safeguarding Statement
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Bray

1. Name of Service
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Bray

2. Statement of Intent
This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. It also gives effect to the PCI Safeguarding Procedures (Republic of Ireland).

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Bray acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects its statutory responsibilities, Government guidance and best practice. We recognise that the welfare and interests of every child are paramount in all circumstances.

The Kirk Session, minister, staff and volunteers of the congregation are committed to ensuring that all children have a positive and enjoyable experience in a safe and child-centred environment, and are protected from harm and the risk of harm while participating in the life and activities of the congregation. In line with the PCI Safeguarding Policy, we are committed to:

- Protecting children from all forms of harm
- Providing a safe, caring and supportive environment
- Ensuring all leaders and volunteers understand their responsibilities
- Responding appropriately to concerns or allegations

3. Nature of Service
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Bray provides worship, fellowship and community activities. The congregation currently does not provide a regular Sunday School or children's programme. Children may, however, attend worship services, social events, and other church gatherings.

The congregation also engages in community outreach activities and public hospitality events where children and young people may be present incidentally, though these activities are not specifically directed toward children.

Buildings owned by the church are used by external organisations providing activities for children (e.g. Scouts, Lakers, Bray Area Partnership)

4. Risk Assessment

In accordance with Section 13 (Assessing and Managing Safeguarding Risk) of the PCI Safeguarding Procedures, the congregation has carried out a written assessment of any potential for harm to a child (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) while availing of our services and activities. The assessment identifies the areas of potential harm and the policies, procedures and practices in place to manage each risk.

Risk Identified	Procedures in Place to Manage Risk
Children attend irregularly and no regular children's team is operating	*Children remain under parent/guardian supervision unless a planned children's activity is formally organised*
Sunday School begins without adequate preparation	*No children's ministry will commence until leaders are safely recruited, Garda vetted, trained, and approved*
Lack of trained/vetted volunteers	*A list of suitable prospective volunteers will be developed; vetting and training completed before ministry begins*
Children attending church social events	*Parents/guardians retain supervision unless otherwise clearly stated*
External hall users working with children	*Requirement for safeguarding compliance; expectation of vetting and appropriate supervision; hiring agreements reflect safeguarding responsibilities*
Children or young people attending community outreach events not specifically designed for children	*Children are normally accompanied by parents/guardians; events are held in open/public settings with visibility and oversight*
Lone working by Community Outreach Worker	*Outreach worker is Garda vetted and safeguarding trained; one-to-one interactions take place in public/open settings where possible*
Older teenagers attending events independently	*Community events are public and visible; leaders maintain appropriate boundaries and awareness*
Open-access church building during outreach events	*General oversight maintained during events; awareness of safeguarding responsibilities among volunteers*
Children accessing unsupervised or isolated areas of the building	*Parents/guardians retain responsibility for supervision; volunteers monitor activity where possible*
Photography during community outreach events	*Images used appropriately and sensitively; consent practices followed where applicable*
Public engagement events (e.g. parade outreach) involving interaction with children	*Interactions with children occur in the presence of parents/families and in public settings*

5. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the Children First Act 2015, Tusla guidance, and PCI Safeguarding Procedures. In addition to the risk assessment above, the following procedures — set out in full in the PCI Safeguarding Procedures (Republic of Ireland) — are in place at St Andrew's:

a. Management of Allegations
- Allegations or concerns regarding workers/volunteers (or against the minister, a staff member, a volunteer/leader or a peer) are managed in line with PCI safeguarding procedures
- Appropriate reporting to Tusla and cooperation with statutory authorities, including An Garda Síochána where appropriate

b. Recruitment and Selection
- Garda Vetting required for all relevant roles (under the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012–2016)
- Application forms completed
- References sought where individuals are not well-known
- Informal or formal interviews are conducted as appropriate

c. Training and Awareness
- Safeguarding training provided for all leaders and volunteers
- Refresher training is expected every three years (with commitment to address current gaps)
- Leaders will be informed of how to recognise and respond to harm

d. Reporting Concerns
- Clear procedures for reporting concerns to Tusla and, where appropriate, An Garda Síochána
- All leaders will be informed of reporting responsibilities
- The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is the key contact

e. Mandated Persons
- The Minister is a mandated person under the Children First Act 2015
- A list of mandated persons will be maintained

f. Record Keeping
- Concerns are recorded and stored securely (currently in a designated safeguarding file)
- Access limited to appropriate personnel

g. Appointment of Relevant Person
- A Relevant Person has been appointed as the first point of contact regarding this statement

6. Key Roles

Designated Liaison Person (DLP): *Janet Beattie Doyle*
Relevant Person: *Gillian Lee Cooke*
Church Leadership (Providers): *Rev. Andrew Gill (Minister)*

7. Implementation and Review

The congregation recognises that safeguarding is an ongoing responsibility. We commit to:

- Implementing this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support it fully
- Reviewing it every 2 years (no later than 24 months from the date of approval), or sooner if there is a material change in service provision or personnel
- Ensuring all leaders and volunteers are aware of their responsibilities
- Displaying this statement publicly and making it available upon request

This statement was formally approved by the Kirk Session on: *15th May 2026.*

It will be reviewed by: 14th May 2028, or sooner if there's a significant change in service provision or personnel.

Signed:



Minister - Rev. Andrew Gill
Tel: 01 565 4081 · Email: andrew@standrewschurchbray.com

Key personnel	Telephone	Email
Relevant Person; *Gillian Lee Cooke*	01 565 4081	safeguarding@standrewschurchbray.com
Mandated Person; *Rev. Andrew Gill*	01 565 4081	andrew@standrewschurchbray.com
Designated Liaison person; *Janet Beattie-Doyle*	01 565 4081	safeguarding@standrewschurchbray.com
PCI Central Safeguarding team	+44 28 9041 7234	safeguarding@presbyterianireland.org
Local Tusla Office	40 463 400	AM.WIC@tusla.ie
Local Garda Station	01 666 5300	ww.Wicklownorth.ce@Garda.ie