

## *A Child Learns What They Live*

*If a child lives with criticism,  
She learns to condemn.*

*If a child lives with hostility,  
He learns to fight.*

*If a child lives with ridicule,  
She learns to be shy.*

*If a child lives with shame,  
He learns to feel guilty.*

*If a child lives with tolerance,  
She learns to be patient.*

*If a child lives with encouragement,  
He learns confidence.*

*If a child lives with praise,  
She learns to appreciate.*

*If a child lives with fairness,  
He learns justice.*

*If a child lives with security,  
She learns to have faith.*

*If a child lives with approval,  
He learns to like himself.*

*If a child lives with acceptance  
and friendship,*

*She learns to find love in the world.*

*Dorothy Law Nolte*



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The Society of African Missions Safeguarding policy  
and procedures are available on [www.sma.ie](http://www.sma.ie)

The Diocesan website is available at [www.corkandross.ie](http://www.corkandross.ie)

Further information is available on the  
website of the National Board for Safeguarding  
Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland

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[www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie)

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## SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS IRISH PROVINCE



## CHILD SAFEGUARDING



**“Every childhood  
lasts a lifetime”**

## Child Safeguarding Policy Statement

The Gospel teaches the importance of ensuring that the Christian community is a warm, welcoming and safe place for children.

*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly, I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. (Mark 10:14-15)*

Children are gifts from God, to be cherished and recognised for the joyful contribution they make as valued members of the Church.

Our challenge is to follow the example of Jesus in cherishing them. Safeguarding is key to this important task and should be seen, not as a burden, but as an opportunity to embrace and encourage children's ministry, following the example of Jesus Christ.

The Society of African Missions pledges to safeguard children and young people from harm and to support them in their development as valued and integral members of the Catholic Church in Ireland. The Society's ministry will be inclusive and will uphold their rights.

Consistent with Gospel values, and with civil and criminal law, those who minister will do so with dignity and integrity, honouring their calling to ensure that children and young people are welcomed, cherished and protected, following the example set by Jesus.

This Safeguarding Children Policy will be adhered to by all Members of the Society of African Missions, Staff and Volunteers.

## The Gift of Children

Lord, we thank you for the gift of our children; they are our light and our joy.

Give us wisdom to guide them, patience to teach them, and a desire to encourage them.

As we strive to love them sincerely, may we never betray their trust, dampen their hope or discourage their spirit.

May we help them achieve their potential and fulfil your dreams for them.

May your grace and love fall gently upon them giving them the inner strength, peace and patience they will need for the journey ahead.

And as we strive to create safe environments where we can freely minister to them, may we be open to you ministering to us in and

through them. (Source: kilmaleyparish.ie)

## A Teenager's Prayer

*Heavenly Father, I ask for your strength and wisdom as I face the challenges of this day. Help me to make choices that are pleasing to You and that honour my well-being. Guide my thoughts and actions, and fill my heart with peace and joy.*

*Remind me that I am never alone and that You are with me through it all. Give me the courage to stand firm in my beliefs and the resilience to overcome any setbacks. May my attitude and actions be a positive reflection of Your love, encouraging others along the way.*

*Amen.* (Source: mcsprogram.org)



## A Safe and Welcoming Church Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024.



There are three core standards to the Church's Safeguarding Children Policy (the three standards are linked, and no standard is more important than another).

The Society of African Missions is committed to creating and maintaining environments that uphold children's rights which include a safe and welcoming Church. Keeping children safe from harm is imperative but more than that, the Society of African Missions will promote the wellbeing of children through their participation in the ministry of the Church. Through fostering a culture of care, children feel safe and looked after, and in turn, they look out for each other.

### A Child's Prayer

*Lord in heaven, hear my prayer  
Keep me in your loving care.*

*Be my guide in all I do.  
Bless all those who love me too.*

*Amen*

(Source: Daily Prayers.org)