



## Guidance on External Groups who Use Church Property

It is a requirement that all groups working with children in the Church body and/or using facilities owned by the Church body are insured, and that they have a child safeguarding policy in place.

The general principle is that the obligation to comply with requirements relating to insurance and child safeguarding rests with the group using Church property, and not with the Church body.

1. It is the responsibility of any group using Church property to run activities involving children to ensure that they comply with all applicable child safeguarding and protection legislation and guidelines.
2. The group should have their own child safeguarding policy and procedures. The group is also responsible for liaising with Tusla/ (as appropriate), to ensure that the policy and procedures meet the statutory requirements.
3. The group should have appropriate insurance for the activity they are running.
4. The Church body should at no stage assist any outside group in developing a child safeguarding policy.
5. The Church body should have confirmation in writing from the group that they have a child safeguarding policy in place. It is not the role of the Church body to validate the adequacy of the policy; that is the responsibility of Tusla.
6. If the group does not have a child safeguarding policy then it is up to the Church authority to decide whether to let the group use the property. If the Church authority thinks it is appropriate they should issue a letter to the leader of the visiting group stating that while on their property full responsibility and liability for ensuring the safety of the children rests with the leader.
7. The Church body should have confirmation in writing from the group that they have appropriate insurance in place, which includes the following:
  - The name of their insurers;
  - The policy number;
  - The period of cover of the policy;

The limit of indemnity