

organisations and bodies which support him, including the Roman Curia, the Synod of Bishops and the College of Cardinals, is known as the Holy See.<sup>45</sup>

The national safeguarding structure of the Catholic Church in England and Wales consists of the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission which has a strategic role and directs the work of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) which is responsible for improving safeguarding practice in the Church. The Commission is mandated by both the CBCEW and the COR. Each diocese or religious order/group of religious orders has a Safeguarding Commission appointed by the bishop who are responsible for dealing with reports of child abuse and who provide an annual report to the NCSC on safeguarding. The Commission appoints a Safeguarding Coordinator whose role is to disseminate best practice and launch national safeguarding policies in the diocese. Each parish and religious order has a Safeguarding Representative and a Clergy/Religious adviser who report to the Safeguarding Coordinator.<sup>46</sup>

Data from the British Social Attitudes survey shows that 8.3 per cent of the population of England and Wales define themselves as Catholic.<sup>47</sup> Catholicism is the second most popular Christian denomination next to Anglicanism in England and Wales. Catholic schools make up ten per cent of the total number of maintained schools in England and Wales.<sup>48</sup>

Further information about the Catholic Church in England and Wales and its governance and safeguarding structure (including safeguarding and child protection timelines for the Church) can be found in Appendix B.

## 4.2 Prevalence and incidence of child sexual abuse within the Catholic Church as indicated by the literature

As highlighted in the introduction, prevalence of child sexual abuse in any context, including that of the Catholic Church is difficult to determine due to potential under-reporting and delays in reporting. There is no robust study of prevalence of child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church in England and Wales; most studies come from other jurisdictions.

The most extensive study of prevalence of child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church is the study commissioned by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and carried out John Jay College of Criminal Justice in the US in 2004.<sup>49</sup> The study received surveys from 195 dioceses; representing 98 per cent of diocesan priests; and 140 religious communities, representing 60 per cent of religious communities 80 per cent of religious priests.<sup>50</sup>

The key findings of the study in respect of prevalence were that:

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- 45 The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (2017) *Transcript of Child Migrants Public Hearing 18 July 2017*. [Online]. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. Available at: [https://www.iicsa.org.uk/key-documents/2170/view/Public per cent20Hearing per cent20Transcript per cent2018th per cent20July per cent202017.pdf](https://www.iicsa.org.uk/key-documents/2170/view/Public%20Hearing%20Transcript%2018th%20July%202017.pdf) [Accessed 2017].
- 46 Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) (2017a) *Catholic Safeguarding Resource Area*. [Online]. CSAS. Available at: <http://www.csas.uk.net/resource-area/> [Accessed 2017].
- 47 Bullivant, S. (2016) *Contemporary Catholicism in England and Wales: A statistical report based on recent British Social Attitudes survey data*. London: St Mary's University.
- 48 Catholic Education Service. *Catholic education FAQs*. [Online]. Catholic Education Service. Available at: <http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/about-us/faqs> [Accessed 2017].
- 49 John Jay College of Criminal Justice (2004), *op. cit.*
- 50 The term 'religious priests' refers to priests within Catholic religious institutes (sometimes also referred to as orders, congregations or communities, although not all of these terms are interchangeable). See Glossary for further information.