

## Information and Guidance for Children, Young People and Parents / Guardians

If you have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of your child while he/she is involved in church activities, please contact the Designated Liaison Person Fr John Harris (087 9661959), Deputy Designated Liaison Person, Ms. Anne Walsh (089) 4858845 or Tusla, Child and Family Agency (051) 842827.

*Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.*

### What you have a right to expect!

- All children and young people have a fundamental right to be respected, nurtured, cared for and protected from harm or the risk of harm. These basic rights are embedded in our Gospel values and within international and domestic laws.
- The rights of children and young people are paramount. Children and young people must be listened to and heard. Concerns and allegations must be taken seriously, swiftly reported, appropriately recorded and dealt with as required by law;
- The Diocese has codes of conduct for adults and children, which set out clear guidelines on what is and what is not acceptable behaviour. Children and young people must be made aware of the importance of proper procedures and codes of conduct for adults as well as themselves in order to better manage their own safety;
- The Diocese Safeguarding Policy and Procedures is available in each parish or on the Diocesan website at - [www.waterfordlismore.ie/safeguarding-children](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/safeguarding-children)

### Code of Conduct for Adults

It is important for all personnel to:

- Treat all children with respect and dignity.
- Treat all children equally.
- Model positive and appropriate behaviour to all children we come into contact with.
- Be aware of the Church's child protection and child safeguarding policy.
- Challenge and report abusive and potentially abusive behaviour.
- Develop a culture of openness, honesty and safety.
- Develop a culture where children have permission to tell and to talk about any concerns or worries that they may have.
- Respect each child's boundaries and support them to develop their own understanding and sense of their rights.
- Be aware of their responsibility for the safety of all children in their care.
- Work in open environments.
- Help children to know what they can do if they have a problem.

Adults must never:


- Hit or otherwise physically assault or abuse children.
- Develop sexual relationships with children.
- Develop relationships with children that could in any way be deemed exploitative or abusive.
- Act in any way that may be abusive or may place a child at risk of abuse.
- Use language, make suggestions or offer advice that is inappropriate, offensive or abusive.
- Do things for a child of a personal nature that they can do themselves.
- Condone or participate in behaviour that is illegal, unsafe or abusive.
- Act in any way that is intended to intimidate, shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade.
- Engage in discriminatory behaviour or language in relation to race, culture, age, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation or political views.
- Consume alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs while having responsibility for or in the presence of children.

In general, it is inappropriate to:

- Take children away or to your own home, especially where they will be alone with you.
- Involve children in one-to-one contact; activities should usually be supervised by at least two adults.
- However, there may be circumstances where this may occur:
  - In a reactive situation, for example when a young person requests a one-to-one meeting with you without warning, or where a young person has had to be removed from a group as part of a code of behaviour.
  - In the event of an emergency where it is necessary to make a journey alone with a child, make a record of this and inform the child's parents or guardians as soon as possible.

**Where it becomes necessary to depart from the code of behaviour, the reasons for doing so should be carefully recorded, and steps should be taken to avoid the recurrence of such a situation in the future.**

### Code of Conduct for Children / Young People

- Treat everyone with respect
  - Treat property with respect
  - Do not consume alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs
  - Do not bring any physical items into the Church activity that may cause offence or harm to others
  - Act as a good role model
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- Attend activities on time
  - Sign in and out
  - Turn off your mobile phone
  - Tell someone you trust if you feel uncomfortable with any situation or individual
  - Do not use bad language
  - Never bully anyone or send threatening messages

#### Please note:

- **Complaints procedure** for the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore is available to view at [www.waterfordlismore.ie/safeguarding-children](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/safeguarding-children)
- **Whistle-blowing procedure** for the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore is available to view at [www.waterfordlismore.ie/safeguarding-children](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/safeguarding-children)

## INFORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

*If you have a concern or question while you are taking part in a Church activity, please contact one of the following:*

Leader of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Priest: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Curate: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a concern regarding the safety and wellbeing of your child while he/she is involved in a Church activity, please contact the Leader of the activity, Parish Priest or Parish Curate.

If you have a concern about child abuse, please contact the Designated Liaison Person.

#### Social Services

Tusla, Child & Family Agency: Waterford

Tel: (051) 842827

An Garda Síochána: Waterford

Tel: (051) 305300

Barnardos

Tel: (1850) 222 300

Childline

Tel: 1800 66 66 66 / Text Talk 50101

Samaritans

Tel: 116 123