

Code of Conduct for Adults taking part in Parish and/or Diocesan Activities and working with children/young people



**DIOCESE OF
KILLALA**

To uphold positive safeguarding practices all Staff and Volunteers in contact with children should be aware of the Church's Child Safeguarding Policy. This can be found in all Church porches, sacristies and in the Child Safeguarding Parish Handbook 2017 (available in all sacristies and on www.killaladiocese.org/safeguarding). They should avoid being alone with children and be aware of their responsibilities for the safety of the children/ young people in their care (Safeguarding Children Parish Handbook 2017, p.17).

It is important for all adults to:

- ensure the safety of all children and young people by providing adequate supervision and proper pre-planning using safe methods at all times
- treat all children and young people with fairness, dignity and respect
- provide an example of good conduct
- ensure the rights and responsibilities of children and young people are respected
- operate within the Church principles and guidance
- be visible to others when working with children
- challenge and report potentially abusive behaviour (refer to pages 34-40 in Child Safeguarding Parish Handbook 2017)
- develop a culture where children can talk about their contacts with staff and others openly, honestly and safely
- respect each child and young person's boundaries and help them to develop their own sense of their rights as well as helping them to know what they can do if they feel that there is a problem
- respect and listen to the opinions of the children and young people
- be positive and approachable
- record and report incidents of alleged abuse and poor practice to the designated liaison person (refer to Child Safeguarding contacts and www.killaladiocese.org/safeguarding/) and maintain appropriate confidentiality about sensitive information
- endeavour to create a safe 'bullying-free' environment
- encourage an anti-discriminatory outlook
- develop and maintain appropriate working relationships with other staff and volunteers
- identify and address the needs of disabled children and young people.

Staff and Volunteers have the right to:

- access ongoing training
- support in reporting suspected abuse
- fair treatment
- be protected from abuse by children, young people, parents and other adult members
- not be left vulnerable when working with children and young people

Dealing with Breaches of Codes of Behaviour for Children/Young people and Adults

Please refer to the Safeguarding Children Parish Handbook 2017, p.12-18 for reference with regard to dealing with issues that may arise with regard to the Code of Conduct or reporting any concerns you may have. If you are unsure or have any questions, please contact Killala Diocese Designated Liaison Person, Mr. John Cummins 096 72066. See www.killaladiocese.org/safeguarding and the Child Safeguarding Parish Handbook for further information.