

# Code of Conduct for Clergy, Staff and Volunteers working with Children and Young People

All working or volunteering with children are required to observe the following code of conduct:

1. Treat all children with respect.
2. Be visible to others when working with children.
3. Clergy, staff and volunteer workers should never plan to be alone in a building, car or a closed room with a child or young person. If one to one contact takes place in an emergency, inform the parent and make a written record of the matter.
4. Providing accommodation in the parochial house for minors is prohibited except in the case of family members or children/young people accompanied by parents or guardians. When the need for a visit to the home of a child/young person arises, professional boundaries must be observed at all times.
5. Written consent must be obtained from parents/guardians before organising activities for the children/young people in your care.
6. Particular care should be taken to ensure that the privacy of children/young people is respected in places such as swimming pools, showers, toilets and changing rooms.
7. Avoid spending excessive time alone with children, away from others.
8. All organised trips require careful planning and adherence to supervision ratios as stated on page 44 of *Safeguarding Children*.
9. Do not take photographs of children/young people while they are in changing areas (e.g. a locker room or bathing facility). Parental consent for taking photographs must always be sought.
10. Use only age appropriate language, media products and activities when working with children and young people. Sexually explicit materials or language are never appropriate.
11. Under no circumstances give alcohol, tobacco or drugs to children or young people.
12. The physical integrity of children and young people must be respected at all times. Sexual relationships, physical punishments, emotional or verbal abuse are not permitted under any circumstances.
13. Ensure that the buildings and/or facilities used for activities with children and/or young people are suitable, safe and secure.

#### Delegate

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#### Support Person

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Children are vulnerable and powerless on certain occasions. At times they may have difficulties making decisions in matters relating to their personal safety. As responsible adults, we have a special duty of care towards them.

#### CIVIL AUTHORITIES

Enniscorthy Gardaí	053-9242580	HSE	053-9233465
Gorey Gardaí	053-9430690	HSE	053-9430100
New Ross Gardaí	051-426030	HSE	053-9123522 Ext 201
Wexford Gardaí	053-9165200	HSE	053-9123522 Ext 201