

Parish Social Networking Policy

Safeguarding Children

DIOCESE OF FERNS

- All parish networking sites should exist following the appointment of a designated site manager who has responsibility for the site. A site may only be considered authorised when the identity of the manager accompanies the site.
- The site manager must be mindful of how site content might be misinterpreted or misconstrued.
- Parish networking sites are solely for communicating parish activities and news to interested parties and as such are not vehicles for personal use.

1. Consent and permission:

The consent of parents/carers should be sought, in as far as is possible, before any photographs of children are taken at parish activities. Parents/carers not wishing to have children's photographs taken at parish events may then inform the authorised photographer and/or site manager.

2. Reason and purpose:

Photographs for parish networking sites should only be taken by an authorised photographer. Photographs must be used only for the purpose for which they were taken, e.g. parish news and church related communications.

3. Appropriateness of images

No images of children should be taken, which capture them in what are commonly understood as non public activities like toileting or changing clothes, or which portray body parts not usually visible in public settings. Images involving groups should be about that activity, not the individual child.

4. Identification of subjects

A photograph should not allow an unauthorised person to identify a child or their whereabouts. Photographs should never be accompanied by the name of the child. Vigilance is required regarding the tagging of children's names to their photographs. This responsibility lies solely with the site manager.

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