

## Code of Behaviour

It doesn't make sense to .....

- Spend time alone with children /young people away from others
- Take a child / young person alone in a car on any journey.

Never.....

- Take a child / young person into your home.
- Engage in physical games with young people except in structured sports.
- Engage in sexually provocative games.
- Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
- Allow children/young people use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child, even in fun.
- Let allegations made by a child/young person go unchallenged or unrecorded . (always follow procedures , document in your Incident Record Form.
- Do things of a personal nature for children/ young person that they can do for themselves.
- Touch, groin and breast areas.
- Be secretive always be open.

Tasks of a personal nature should only be carried out for very young children or children with a disability with the full understanding and consent of parents. In an emergency , parents should be fully informed.

Actions / decisions taken with any young person should be governed by the age and the developmental stage of the child.



In recreational activities .....

- Always work openly with children/young people.
- If physical support is needed it should be provided openly.
- If groups have to be supervised in changing rooms, always ensure leaders are of the appropriate gender and work in pairs.
- Where there are mixed groups away from home always ensure that there are leaders of both genders present.

### Summary

The Parish of Arklow incorporating Johnstown/ Coolgreaney is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children and young people whilst respecting the rights of volunteers, leaders and all adults with a responsibility for the aforementioned. The protection of our children and young people is paramount and takes precedence over all other concerns.



ARKLOW PARISH  
PASTORAL  
COUNCIL



## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



### SUPPORT CONTACT NUMBERS

#### Director of Child Protection:

Mr. Andrew Fagan 01-8360315

#### Local HSE No.:

0404 -68400

#### Local Garda:

0402—32304 / 32305

#### Arus Lorcaín:

0402- 31716



## **Policy Statement.**

We in the parish of Arklow value and encourage the participation of children and young people in parish liturgies and in activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development.

We recognize the dignity and rights of all children and young people and are committed to their protection and support.

In keeping with this we will work to do all that is in our power to create safe environments for children and young people in order to secure their protection and enable their full participation in the life of the church.



## **Principles Guiding Best Practice**

The core principals that underpin the best practice for the protection of children / young people are to found in the Gospels , church statutory guidelines and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child.

### **These principles are as follows:**

Children are people and should be valued in their own right.

Each child/young person must be affirmed as a gift from God and has a right to dignity of life and bodily integrity which must be respected , nurtured and protected.

Children/ young people have a right to be heard and taken seriously taking into account their age and level of understanding. They should be consulted and involved in relation to all matters and decisions that affect their lives.

Children/ young people have a right to care and support, and to be raised in environments free from abuse or neglect with good role models whom they can fully trust will care for and nurture their physical and spiritual maturity.

The Church has a corporate responsibility to operate effective systems to ensure the protection of children. This includes having a proper recruitment , formation and training strategy in place and working cooperatively with other agencies in the best interest of the child.

All persons must be aware of their duty, both moral and legal , to prevent child abuse and to report concerns or suspicions of same.

Every action and procedure must consider the overall needs of the child. Actions taken to protect the child must not themselves be abusive or cause the child any unnecessary distress.

A proper balance must be struck between protecting a child and regards for the rights of the carer, but where there is conflict the protection and rights of the child are paramount.

## **Basic Procedures**

The Parish of Arklow undertakes to have the following in place:

- Signed parental consent for each young person for Parish based activities.
- Appropriate supervision ratios of adults to young people ensuring that no young person is left alone with an adult.
- Where there are mixed-sex groups there must be male and female leaders. In the case where, for example, there is a girls' choir with a male leader, there must be a female supervisor present.
- A code of conduct must be drawn up for both leaders and the young people in their charge.
- Proper record keeping processes must include:
  - Participant membership form.
  - Incident/accident report form.
  - Volunteer application form.
  - Declaration forms for all leaders.
  - Medical information/ treatment form.
  - Attendance record.
  - Contact information for parents /guardians.
- Procedures for recruitment and training of leaders working with young people
- Added procedures for away trips, same day or overnight.
- Information session for all young people and their parents