

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia



Every child, young person and vulnerable adult who comes to a Church or Parish Activity is important. All the adults must make sure:

- You are treated well and with respect.
- You are listened to.
- All reasonable action is taken to ensure you are safe.

If you are unhappy, muddled, confused, worried, hurt or frightened about anything that happens at a Church or Parish Activity, where you live or anywhere else you go, we want to help.

The people you can tell are:

- Somebody in your family or where you live.
- A leader who you feel listens to you in the Church/Parish Activity.
- Your Local Safeguarding Representative (see below).
- The Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Officer/Adviser (see below).
- Somebody at School.
- Child Line/NSPCC.

You will not get into trouble at Church (in the Youth Group etc.) for telling about something that is making you unhappy, muddled, confused, worried, hurt or frightened. It sometimes takes a lot of courage to tell.

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE:

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR:

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING OFFICER/ADVISER:

NSPCC: 0800 800 500 OR 42, Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH or www.nspcc.org.uk

NSPCC Welsh language helpline: 0808 1002524

NSPCC Textphone service (for deaf people): 0800 056 0566

www.There4me.com (computer based service run by NSPCC by which young people can 'speak' to a counsellor on-line)

Child Line: Free phone 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk

Action on Elder Abuse: 0808 808 8141 or www.elderabuse.org.uk/

Help the Aged: 0207 278 1114 or www.helptheaged.org.uk

Other Local and specialist resources i.e. Local help line or Church Action on Disability

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CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

All those involved within the parish, whether priests, lay workers, children, parents, volunteers or parish members, have their part to play in developing this whole parish ethos so that we may all grow in our understanding of and commitment to the Christian way of life.

PARISH CHILDREN'S CODE OF CONDUCT:

- I will respect and take care of others and not hurt or frighten anyone.
- I will be polite to all I meet.
- I will respect and take care of things that belong to the parish and others.
- I will listen to and try to understand others' opinions.
- I will behave in a way that allows all to enjoy the group/activity.
- I will be quiet when asked to by the activity leaders.

This Code of Conduct has been written so as to provide a happy, safe and nurturing environment for your child when attending a parish children's activity.

We hope that you will discuss this Code of Conduct with your child to help them understand the importance of following it.

This Code of Conduct is issued to all parents/guardians who give their consent to their children taking part in a Parish/Diocesan activity.

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CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ADULTS INVOLVED IN CONTACT WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

YOU MUST:

- Operate within the Church's principles and guidance and any particular procedures of the Diocese, Parish or Club.
- Treat all children and young people equally and with respect.
- Engage and interact appropriately with children and young people.
- Challenge unacceptable behaviour and provide an example for good conduct you wish others to follow – an environment which allows bullying, inappropriate shouting or any form of discrimination is unacceptable.
- Respect a child or young person's right to personal privacy.
- Recognise that particular care is required in moments when you are discussing sensitive issues with children and young people e.g. maintain appropriate boundaries.
- Avoid situations that compromise your relationship with children and young people, and are unacceptable within a relationship of trust. This rule should apply to all such behaviours including those which would constitute an illegal act.

YOU MUST NOT:

- Discuss topics or use vocabulary with children and young people which could not be used comfortably in the presence of parents or another adult.
- Arrange an overnight trip with a child or young person without ensuring that another approved person will be present.
- Take a chance when common sense suggests another more prudent approach.
- Physically, emotionally or sexually abuse or exploit any child.

This Code of Conduct is issued to all those who work in our Parishes with Children and Young People