



CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

THIS PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF THE DO'S AND DON'TS IN TERMS OF BEHAVIOUR WHEN WORKING WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE. AS WITH ALL CHILD PROTECTION GUIDANCE IT IS FOR THE PROTECTION OF BOTH LEADERS AND HELPERS AS WELL AS CHILDREN. ACTIONS CAN OFTEN BE MISREAD BY OBSERVERS.

THIS CODE OF BEHAVIOUR SHOULD PROVIDE THE BASE LINE FOR ANYONE WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

CLERGY, PAID EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS SHOULD:

- Treat all children and young people with the respect and dignity befitting their age.
- Watch their own language, tone of voice and body language.
- Learn to control and discipline children without physical punishment. This is illegal for children's workers.
- Ensure that another adult is informed if a worker needs to take a child to the toilet.
- Toilet breaks should be organised for young children.
- If known in advance, seek a parent's permission if a child or young person is to be seen on his or her own; another adult must be nearby and the child or young person must know this.
- Ensure that each group includes a female helper.
- Ensure that children and young people know that they can speak to an independent person (the Child Protection Representative or Children's Advocate) in the parish, or contact Childline if they need to talk to someone. Display that name and contact details and the Childline telephone number (0800 1111) in a prominent place where children can see them.

CLERGY, PAID EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS SHOULD NOT:

- Invade a child's privacy whilst washing or toileting.
- Play rough physical or sexually provocative games.
- Be sexually suggestive about or to a child or young person even in fun.
- Touch a child inappropriately or obtrusively.
- Scapegoat, ridicule or reject a child or young person.
- Show favouritism to any one child, young person or group.
- Allow a child or young person to involve the worker in excessive attention seeking that is overtly physical or sexual in nature (see Guideline 6).
- Give lifts to children or young people on their own. If this is unavoidable ask the child or young person to sit in the back of the vehicle.
- Share sleeping accommodation with young people.
- Invite a young person to the worker's home alone.
- Permit abusive peer activities e.g. initiation ceremonies, ridiculing, bullying.
- Allow unknown adults access to children. Visitors should always be accompanied by a known person.
- Allow strangers to give children lifts.

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