

Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly

Code of Behaviour for Children and Young People

Church activities for young people should offer a positive experience, where they can learn new things in a safe and positive environment. To this end, all young people should be made aware of the activity Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct should be discussed with the children/young people to whom it applies, so that they can understand it and take ownership of it.

It is important that children/young people know the limits and boundaries appropriate to their own behaviour and that leaders working with children/young people should be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity.

The following Code of Conduct applies to all children/young people who are involved in church-related activities in the parishes and in the Archdiocese. As a participant, you are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct.

Children/Young People Are Expected To:

- Be loyal and give their friends a second chance.
- Be friendly and particularly welcoming to new members.
- Be supportive and committed to other members, and offer comfort when required.
- Refrain from getting involved in inappropriate peer pressure or pushing others into something they do not want to do.
- Behave appropriately and listen to all instructions from the leaders.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants, regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- Refrain from the use of bad language or racial/sectarian references. This includes bullying on any social media platform or through messaging apps.
- Refrain from bullying or the persistent use of rough or dangerous play.
- Show respect for church property, the property of others and public property.
- Show respect to other youth members and leaders, and show team spirit.
- Keep themselves safe.
- Report inappropriate behaviour or risky situations.
- Play fairly and be trustworthy.
- Challenge or report bullying to their leaders.
- Switch off mobile phones while in church or during church or parish activities. Make your activity a fun place to be.
- Treat matters confidentially, where appropriate.

Children/Young People Are Not Allowed To:

- Smoke or vape.
- Consume alcohol or drugs of any kind.
- Use violence of any sort towards others.
- Use information technology, social media sites or messaging apps during a church-related activity without the prior consent of a parent and the activity leader.
- Take photos or videos of others taking part in group activities.

Children/Young People Have the Right To:

- Be safe and happy in their chosen activity.
- Be listened to.
- Be respected and treated fairly.
- Privacy.
- Enjoy their activity in a protective environment.
- Be referred to professional help if needed.
- Be protected from abuse by other participants or outside sources.
- Participate on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability.
- Experience competition and the desire to win.
- Be believed.
- Ask for help.

Managing Misbehaviour

Any misdemeanours and general misbehaviour will be addressed by the immediate leader and reported verbally to the activity leader. Persistent misbehaviour may result in suspension or dismissal from the activity. Parents will be informed.