

Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly

Code of Conduct for Adults

The Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all people involved in church activities. The Diocese believes that Church personnel, activity leaders, young people and parents involved in church-related activities should, always, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Participants are encouraged to always be open and to share any concerns or complaints they may have about any aspect of the activity in which they are taking part.

It is important for all personnel to:

- Treat all children and vulnerable adults with respect and dignity.
- Treat all children and vulnerable adults equally.
- Model positive and appropriate behaviour to all children we encounter.
- Be aware of the Church's safeguarding policies.
- Challenge and report abusive or potentially abusive behaviour.
- Develop a culture of openness, honesty and safety.
- Develop a culture where children have permission to tell and talk about any concerns or worries they may have.
- Respect each child's boundaries and support them to develop their own understanding and sense of their rights.
- Be aware of their responsibility for the safety of all children in their care.
- Work in open environments.
- Help children to know what they can do if they have a problem.

Adults must never:

- Hit or otherwise physically assault or abuse children.
- Develop sexual relationships with children.
- Develop relationships with children that could in any way be deemed exploitative or abusive.
- Act in any way that may be abusive or may place a child at risk of abuse.
- Use language, make suggestions or offer advice that is inappropriate, offensive or abusive.
- Do things for a child of a personal nature that they can do themselves.

- Act in any way that is intended to intimidate, shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade.
- Engage in discriminatory behaviour or language in relation to race, culture, age, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation or political views.
- Consume alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs while having responsibility for, or in the presence of, children or young people.

In general, it is inappropriate to:

- Take children away or to your own home, especially where they will be alone with you.
- Involve children in one-to-one contact; activities should usually be supervised by at least two adults.

There may, however, be two circumstances where one-to-one contact may occur:

- In a reactive situation, for example, when a young person requests a one-to-one meeting with you without warning, or where a young person has had to be removed from a group as part of a code of behaviour.
- As part of a planned, structured piece of work (for example, one-to-one music tuition)

As a participant, you are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct.