

PARISH: _____

NAME OF LEADER IN CHARGE: _____

TEL: _____

Useful Contacts

NSPCC tel: [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000)

CHILDNET web: childnet.com

INTERNET SAFETY web: ceop.police.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICE tel: [028 9049 2798](tel:02890492798)
email: office@soddc.org
web: www.downandconnorsafeguarding.com

DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON tel: [07534 992 124](tel:07534992124)
Philip O'Hara email: philip.ohara@soddc.org



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS GUARDIANS CARERS



Welcome

Safeguarding is an umbrella term for all the things we do in order to ensure that all our children are safe from harm. The parish seeks to create a safe environment for children, young people, volunteers and church personnel.

This short guide for parents, guardians or carers is designed to let you know what you can expect from those who are looking after your child whilst they are taking part in church activities.

Your child will have received the “we care about you” card which helps them know who their leader is and who they can speak to if they don't feel happy or safe, if they are feeling scared or alone. We all share in the responsibility and duty to help our children speak out about things that worry them. Together with parents, guardians or carers we in the Church want to make sure that every child has a positive and enriching experience when they engage in parish activities.

Child Protection Guidelines

For adults, the diocese has produced a set of documents outlining what should be in place in all churches to ensure that children are safe and that concerns brought to the attention of the safeguarding office or the diocese will be acted upon. These documents can be located at the safeguarding website, www.downandconnorsafeguarding.com

Safe Recruitment and Vetting

All leaders in the diocese must go through a safe recruitment and vetting procedure. They also attend child safeguarding training appropriate to their role.

Parents Remember, when your child attends an activity...

- Complete a consent form and return to the leader in charge
- Advise leaders of any changes (including medical changes) that affect your child
- Speak with leaders and get to know who is looking after your child

- Encourage your child to follow the agreed ways to behave towards each other
- Speak with your child about who they can talk to if they have a worry or concern

Leaders will ensure that...

- Joint consent forms are given to children/parents/guardians
- Consent will be sought for taking of photographs/recording/use of images on any social media platforms
- Information regarding your child will be kept in line with data protection legislation
- The recommended ratios of leaders to children are adhered to

Leaders will...

- Be inclusive of all children
- Not tolerate any form of bullying
- Ensure that your child's safety and welfare are promoted during the activity
- Deal appropriately with any worry or concern relating to your child's welfare

Accidents In the event of any accident the leader will...

- Attend to the accident
- Advise parents/guardians/carers of the accident that involved their child
- Complete a record of the accident

Remember

If you are unhappy with anything relating to your child's attendance at a parish activity you should raise it with your child's leader in the first instance. If you would rather speak with someone else you can contact the parish priest or designated liaison person.

All worries, concerns and allegations will be taken seriously and responded to sensitively and respectfully.