

Guidance on the Participation of Children and Young People with Specific Needs



Guidance on the Participation of Children and Young People with Specific Needs

This guidance outlines the principles and practices for including children and young people with specific needs in parish activities. It aims to ensure that all children and young people are treated with dignity, respect, and provided with equal opportunities to participate.

This guidance applies to all Church personnel, volunteers, and leaders involved in activities with children and young people, particularly those with specific needs.

Children and young people with specific needs have the same rights as any other child or young person. Inclusion should be promoted through positive attitudes and environmental adaptations. Key considerations include:

- Work in partnership with the child, young person, parents/carers and professionals to support inclusion, and agree the participation.
- Making reasonable adjustments to accommodate the child, young person.
- Building rapport and showing interest in the child, young person.
- Learning key communication methods if the child, young person has impairments.
- Some specific training may be useful or required (e.g., autism, epilepsy).
- Conducting risk assessments and ensuring appropriate supervision ratios.
- Listening carefully to children, young people and respecting their concerns.

Intimate and Personal Care

Church personnel and volunteers are generally not expected to provide intimate care. If necessary, care should be provided by identified and trained individuals with prior agreement from all parties.

Guidelines include:

- Respecting the child's, young person's dignity and privacy.
- Involving the child, young person in their own care as much as possible.
- Ensuring consistency in caregivers.
- Reporting any concerns or distress to parents/carers and safeguarding officers.

Toileting Assistance

Children and young people who can toilet themselves should be allowed to do so independently. If assistance is required:

- One volunteer may assist with another nearby.
- Consent from parents/carers is required.
- For complex needs, two volunteers may assist with prior agreement.
- Hygiene and safety procedures must be followed.

Relevant Forms

SO6, SO7, SO8, SO9, SO10 & SO11

USEFUL RESOURCES

- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**
- **NSPCC Safeguarding Guidelines**
- **Volunteer Now Training Programs**