

S4.9 Sample Code of Behaviour for children taking part in Church activities

Our parish expects that children will act respectfully of themselves, their supervisors and fellow participants.

Participants must accept the ground rules of activities which supervisors will clearly explain to them.

Children will not have access to the use of email or the internet when participating in our parish programmes.

Breaches of discipline and disruptive behaviour, including bullying, will be dealt with in a manner that is fair and transparent, by more than one member of Church personnel.

Children and their parents will be advised of the consequences for breaching the Code of Behaviour.

If a child or an adult breaches the code of behaviour, efforts should be made to resolve the issue by:

- Discussion with and support for the adult or the child;
- A child or adult may be asked to apologise for their behaviour;
- In the case of a child/young person, involving their parents/guardians;
- Agreeing on sanctions.

Sanctions may include:

- Time out of group activity;
- For children, a parent/guardian may be asked to attend group activities with their child for a period of time;
- For adults, retraining in leadership skills, code of behaviour, etc. may be required;
- For children, the code of behaviour should be revisited and agreed upon;
- Monitoring behaviour and support on an ongoing basis.
- In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion from the group should be considered;
- Formal reporting to statutory authorities.
- Children or their parents who are dissatisfied with any aspect of activities or services can follow a complaints procedure, namely to inform the leader of the programme or, when appropriate, to contact one of our Parish Safeguarding Representatives through the parish office.

Please note:

- The parish only accepts liability or responsibility for an incident or accident caused by the negligence or breach of statutory duty of the parish, its staff and volunteers.
- It is the responsibility of the parents to be on time when dropping off or collecting children.
- All participants must keep to the code of behaviour for this activity, otherwise they may be asked not to continue their participation.
- Leaders are not allowed to give participants a lift to or from activities.
- Any concerns regarding the welfare and safety of children participating in parish activities should be brought immediately to the attention of the Parish Safeguarding Representative, the Designated Liaison Person or the statutory authorities.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand and accept this Code of Behaviour.

Signature: _____ Date: _____