

All Church personnel (including clergy, religious, staff, volunteers and any other Church personnel) have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse. (Safeguarding Policy Statement)

“Our generation will show that it can rise to the promise found in each young person when we know how to give them space. This means that we have to create the material and spiritual conditions for their full development; to give them a solid basis on which to build their lives; to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be; to pass on to them lasting values that make life worth living; to give them a transcendent horizon for their thirst for authentic happiness and their creativity for the good; to give them the legacy of a world worthy of human life; and to awaken in them their greatest potential as builders of their own destiny, sharing responsibility for the future of everyone. If we can do all this, we anticipate today the future that enters the world through the window of the young.” (Pope Francis)

Guidance on using the checklist

Children have a right not to be hurt and equally must not hurt others. Adults in charge of children have responsibilities towards them: These include making sure children are kept safe, healthy, to listen to them and take their views into account.

This checklist is a way to check how well your group respects the rights and responsibilities of everyone involved.

The checklist can be used in two ways:

- Each child can read the questions and answer them individually and then compare their answers with other people's answers.
- The questions can be answered as a group and what most people think are the answers to the questions chosen.

The more people who give the same answer the more it can tell you about how safe or unsafe your group feels.

Different answers don't mean that anyone is wrong – it may be an opportunity to talk about why some people think differently.

Sharing the results will help everyone to work together to plan to make everyone feel safer.

The one-page checklist on the following page can be copied for each member of the group.

Group leaders should decide on the most appropriate time to use the checklist. Those who trialled it suggested that using it towards the end of the term/year could be most useful.

Following completion of the checklist, the outcomes may be discussed and form the basis for planning any changes that are considered necessary; acknowledging positives; addressing any safeguarding issues which arise.

The Environment**Yes Sort of No**

- Does the building look like somewhere you`d like to go in?
- Does the building allow for children who use wheelchairs?
- Does everybody help keep the building nice (no litter etc)?
- Is the building kept clean and warm and with good lighting?
- Is there somewhere safe to keep your things?

Leaders**Yes Sort of No**

- Do leaders help you feel you can talk to them about anything that`s worrying you?
- Do leaders make sure you are not being bullied or left out?
- Is it easy to talk to the leaders and do they listen?
- Do the leaders respect each other and the group members?

Activities**Yes Sort of No**

- Are activities well organised so people don`t disrupt others?
- Can children suggest activities?
- Are people friendly to each other and welcome new people?
- Can members help make the rules about how people should behave?

You and Your Group**Yes Sort of No**

- Can you ask questions if you are unsure how to do something safely?
- Do people in the group sometimes spoil each other`s fun by behaving badly?
- Are there rules that tell you how to behave safely?
- Would your group tell on an adult if they were worried that a member was in danger?
- Is there a way to deal with bullying that everyone knows about?

***Other questions which you would like to add
and your answers (please include on a separate page)***

