

# Diocese of Cork and Ross

## Code of Behaviour for Adults working with children -Form 5

### It is important for all personnel to:

- Treat everybody with respect and dignity;
- Treat all children equally;
- Model positive, appropriate behaviour to all children we come into contact with;
- Be aware of the Church's child protection and child safeguarding policy;
- Challenge and report abusive and potentially abusive behaviour;
- Develop a culture of openness, honesty and safety;
- Develop a culture where children have permission to tell and to talk about any concerns or worries that 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;
- Condone or participate in behaviour that is illegal, unsafe or abusive;
- 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/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  
However, there may be two circumstances where this may occur:
  - I. 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.
  - II. As part of a planned structured piece of work (for example one-to-one music tuition).
  - III. See [Guidance 1.4D](#) for safe practices if either of these situations occur.