

PARISHES OF DUNDRUM/BALLINTEER/MEADOWBROOK
-Code of Conduct for Children / Young People

Our parishes are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all young people involved in church activities. The Archdiocese of Dublin believes that it is important that Church personnel, activity leaders, young people and parents involved in church related activities should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Therefore, participants are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the activity in which they are partaking.

Church activities for young people should offer a positive experience, where they can learn new things in a safe and positive environment. To this end all young people should be made aware of the activity code of conduct and asked to sign a copy of the code in conjunction with their parents or guardian. The code of Behaviour should be discussed with children/young people to whom it applies, so that they can understand it and take ownership of it.

It is important that children/young people know the limits and boundaries appropriate to their own behaviour and that leaders working with children/young people should be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity.

The following **CODE OF BEHAVIOUR** applies to all children/young people who are involved in church related activities in the parish.

As a participant, you are expected to abide by the code of conduct.

CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Be loyal and give their friends a second chance.
- Be friendly and particularly welcoming to new members.
- Be supportive and committed to other members, offer comfort when required.
- Refrain from getting involved in inappropriate peer pressure and push others into something they do not want to do.
- Behave and listen to all instructions from the leaders. Play within the rules and respect the leaders and their decisions.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background or religious beliefs or sexual identity.

- Refrain from the use of bad language or racial/sectarian references. This includes bullying using new technologies like chat-rooms or texting.
- Refrain from bullying or persistent use of rough and dangerous play.
- Show respect for church property, the property of others and public property.
- Show respect to other youth members/leaders and show team spirit.
- Keep themselves safe.
- Report inappropriate behaviour or risky situations.
- Play fairly and be trustworthy.
- Challenge or report bullying to your leaders.
- Switch off mobile phones while in church or during church or parish activities.

CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO:

- Smoke.
- Consume alcohol or drugs of any kind.
- Use violence of any sort towards others.
- Use information technology during a church related activity without prior consent of a parent and the activity leader.

CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Be safe and happy in their chosen activity.
- Be listened to.
- Be respected and treated fairly.
- Privacy.
- Enjoy their activity in a protective environment.
- Be protected from abuse by other participants or outside sources.
- Participate on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability.
- Experience competition and the desire to win.
- Be believed.
- Ask for help.

Any misdemeanours and general misbehaviour will be addressed by the immediate leader and reported verbally to the activity leader. Persistent misbehaviour may result in suspension/dismissal from the activity. Parents will be informed at all stages.