

Code of Conduct for children / young people and their parents / guardians involved in Church activities (e.g. groups, events, off-site-trips, retreats and pilgrimages)

Church groups seek to offer a positive experience for children and young people where they can learn and grow in faithfulness in a safe and positive environment.

Our Lady Help of Christians is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its members.

Everybody associated with the group should, always, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Members are encouraged to be open always and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the group with either Father Aaron or Michelle Beman, our Safeguarding Officer.

As a member of the Our Lady Help of Christians Church you are expected to abide by the following code of practice:

Children, young people and their parents / guardians are expected to:

- Be friendly and particularly welcoming to new members;
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, social class, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity;
- Make your group a fun place to be;
- Be supportive and committed to other group members and offer comfort when required;
- Be loyal and give friends a second chance;
- Be respectful, helpful and trustworthy;
- Play a part in keeping themselves safe;
- Report inappropriate behavior or risky situations;
- Behave and listen to all instructions from the leaders and helpers and stick to the rules;
- Respect group leaders/helpers and accept decisions;
- Not be violent and aggressive;
- Refrain from rough and dangerous play;
- Take care of the equipment owned by the group;
- Refrain from the use of bad language, racial or sectarian references;
- Refrain from bullying; this includes bullying using any form of social media;

- Not get involved in inappropriate peer pressure and push others into something they do not want to do;
- Pay any fees promptly;
- Not smoke, drink alcohol or take non-prescribed or illegal drugs on Church premises or at any event connected to Church activities.

Children / Young People and their Parents / Guardians have the right to:

- Be safe and happy in their chosen activity.
- Be respected and treated fairly.
- Take part as an equal to others in the group.
- Be protected from abuse by other members or outside sources.
- Ask for help.
- Be listened to.
- Be believed.
- Have any concerns taken seriously and acted on.
- Be referred to professional help if needed.
- Privacy.

Any minor misdemeanors and general misbehavior will be addressed by the group leader. More serious or persistent misbehavior may result in short term or permanent exclusion from the group. Parents will be informed at all stages.