

# **Code of Behaviour for Adults working with children in the parish of Castlebar**

## **It is important for all personnel to:**

- Treat all children with respect and dignity
- Treat all children equally
- Model positive, appropriate behaviour to all children they 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
- Watch or supervise a child undressing, or assist a child undressing e.g. in swimming pools or on international Pilgrimages, such as Lourdes baths.
- 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:**

- 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
- As part of a planned structured piece of work (for example one-to-one music tuition). See Guidance 1.4D for safe practices if either of these situations occur.

**Code of behaviour must be signed by all adults (including the priest) who work with or supervise children in a church setting. Forms should then be stored securely.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_