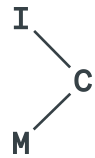


Irish Church Missions

Working in Partnership with Parents / Guardians Policy



This policy should be read in conjunction with [ICM]'s Communication Policy.

(based on a template from the Church of Ireland's Safeguarding Trust website. [ICM] may be replaced by an ICM affiliated church name in due course, as they become independent charities)

Working in partnership with parents/ guardians helps to safeguard children. [ICM] sees the welfare of children as paramount and therefore seeks to form positive relationships between clergy, staff/volunteers and parents to encourage mutual trust and support.

Partnership with parents/guardians and families involves information sharing and consultation regarding all aspects of their child's participation in [ICM].

In order to foster positive relationships and a good working partnership between clergy/staff/volunteers and parents/guardians, [ICM] shall:

- Ensure that all clergy, staff and volunteers working with their child are introduced to parents/guardians;
- Provide parents/guardians with information on Safeguarding Trust;
- Make available to parents, via their website, all relevant policies and procedures;
- Ensure that clergy/staff/volunteers make themselves available to talk to parents/guardians informally on a regular basis;
- Allow parents the opportunity to visit their child's activity from time to time;
- Regularly provide information on activities and events both verbally and in writing (including electronic communication);
- Regularly provide feedback to parents on their child's progress and participation.

[ICM] shall encourage parents to:

1. Ask questions about policies and procedures;
2. Make suggestions or comments;
3. Ask about their child's experiences in the organisation;
4. Talk to clergy/staff/volunteers about how their child is getting on in activities;
5. Keep clergy, staff and volunteers informed about family events/situations that may be causing children anxiety;
6. Attend events organised by [ICM].

It is essential that this working partnership is based on mutual respect and value so that if an occasion arises whereby a clergy, staff member or volunteer has a concern about a child, this can be discussed with parents if appropriate. [ICM] may seek to speak with parents/guardians if a concern arises about their child or before a report is going to be made to Túsla in line with the Safeguarding Trust however, there may be circumstances in which it is not possible or appropriate to do so.

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