

Code of Conduct for Young People

At the beginning of each 'Spirit' youth group, the Code of Conduct will be developed along with the young members but will include the following core elements:

1. All people should be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity.
2. Ensure that appropriate boundaries are maintained in the relaxed environment of the youth group. Physical contact between young pilgrims and leaders will be of an appropriate nature at all times.
3. Do not engage in or tolerate any behaviour - verbal, psychological or physical - that could be construed as bullying.
4. Physical, emotional or verbal abuse is not permitted under any circumstances.
5. Inappropriate language or sexually suggestive comments or gestures are unacceptable.
6. Being alone with a young person is not appropriate practice and if it is unavoidable, inform another responsible adult.
7. Young people have a clearly designated leader with whom they can discuss concerns if they arise.
8. Youth helpers have been made aware of the tasks and responsibilities to be requested of them - appropriate to their age and capacity. They should not be asked to do intimate care tasks for which they have no training.
9. Adequate, gender-appropriate, supervision for boys and girls is essential on all occasions.
10. Discipline requirements and sanctions have been agreed by leaders and young people. These are clearly define and implemented consistently.

Safeguarding Measures

All safeguarding policies and procedures are in line with the Diocesan Safeguarding Policies which comply with National Safeguarding Guidelines further detail of which are on the diocesan website www.ferns.ie. The following are an indication of the safeguarding measures in place:

- All leaders and members (over 15) will be Garda vetted. Leaders will also sign a declaration of suitability form.
- All leaders and members will fill in an application form. Members will be required to have parental consent.
- Number of leaders will be in line with supervisory requirements during all activities.
- Proper safeguarding records will be maintained safely and securely.
- All leaders will be trained in Safeguarding.
- Two leaders will be assigned the role of designated persons to receive any complaints from members and leaders.
- All leaders will sign up to the Code of Conduct for Leaders.

The welfare of the young person is paramount in all decisions, activities and programmes involving young people.

In all cases details of allegations reported concerns and details of incidents shared with the Designated Persons will be passed on immediately to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator; Colette O'Doherty (087) 9474513 and the Diocesan Designated Person: Ms Marian Stack, (085) 1055992

Spirit

ferns diocesan youth
group



Safeguarding Procedures

Information on Protection of Young People

This policy applies to all clergy, religious, staff and volunteers who work with young people in the Diocese. The statement overleaf outlines the procedures for the protection and safeguarding of young people. The full policy and associated documents are available online at www.ferns.ie



Safeguarding Office
Bishops House
Summerhill
Wexford
Tel: (053) 9174972

Introduction

'Spirit' is a dynamic, exciting and motivational youth group aimed at Transition Year Students. The framework of the group is devised to encourage team work, positive peer support, friendship and a positive and supportive value ethos. This will be achieved through community workgroups, inspirational guest speakers, trips and outings, a 10-week Personal & Spiritual Development Programme, etc.

Diocesan Policy Statement

The Diocese of Ferns values and encourages the participation of young people in the 'Spirit' youth group. Their active involvement in this work can help to enhance their spiritual, social, physical and emotional development.

The diocese undertakes to do all in its power to create a safe environment for young people and to ensure their protection from neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

This is achieved by:

- * Ensuring that all Spirit Leaders are carefully recruited, selected, trained and supported.
- * Ensuring that there is adequate preparation and training in best practice guidelines.
- * Appointment of Designated Child Protection Officers for Spirit youth group.
- * Making people aware of procedures for responding to any protection concerns.
- * Having a code of conduct for all leaders and young people.

Spirit Group Activities

Workgroups

Each member will be assigned one of the following types of workgroups during the year.:

- Caring for the Environment
- Wexford Branch of the Special Olympics
- Radio Programming
- Activities with the Elderly
- National Wexford Opera Theatre
- Special Needs

Plus all members will avail of

- ◆ Personal & Spiritual Development Course which is a 10 week course covering interpersonal communication techniques, self-image, relationships, peer support and creativity.
- ◆ Trips & Outings : There will be outings to places of inspiration both locally and outside of the Diocese.
- ◆ Guest Speakers : Inspirational speakers will be invited to tell their stories

Code of Conduct for Spirit Leaders

1. All people should be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity.
2. Ensure that appropriate boundaries are maintained in the relaxed environment of the youth group.
3. Physical contact between Leaders and young people will be of an appropriate nature at all times.
4. Do not engage in or tolerate any behaviour - verbal, psychological or physical - that could be construed as bullying.
5. Physical, emotional or verbal abuse of young people is not permitted under any circumstances.
6. Inappropriate language or sexually suggestive comments or gestures are unacceptable.
7. Being alone with a young person is not appropriate practice and if it is unavoidable, inform another responsible adult.
8. Under no circumstances give alcohol, tobacco or drugs to young people.
9. Do not use alcohol, tobacco or drugs in the company of young people.
10. Do not take pictures of young people unless you have prior parental consent to do so.
11. Maintain a positive attitude towards young people that respects the personal space, safety and privacy of individuals.
12. Never do anything of a personal nature for young people which they can do themselves.
13. Personal contact outside of young work business should not be made with young people.
14. Leaders are not permitted to give lifts in their cars to individual young people.

**All concerns and/or complaints should be brought to the attention of Designated Persons:
Colette O'Doherty (087) 9474513**