

I understand my responsibility and duty, as a Loreto Sister, in working to safeguard children and young people in our province.

I agree to abide by the Loreto Sisters' safeguarding policy, procedures and code of conduct in working with children and young people and will at all times honour and respect their right to safety and protection from harm and abuse.

(If applicable e.g. school or hospital chaplain):

I confirm that the external organisation in which I minister has safeguarding policies and procedures in place and I agree that when ministering in this external organisation I will adhere to its policies and procedures.

Full name (print): .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Signed: .....

Date: .....

## Loreto Sisters Safeguarding



**Sisters' Agreement**  
**August 2017**

## Agreement to abide by the Loreto Sisters' Policy for Safeguarding when working with children and young people.

### Loreto Policy Statement:

As a constituent member of the Catholic Church in Ireland we recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents and guardians to do this. We recognise each child as a gift from God, and we value and encourage the participation of children in all activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

All Church personnel (including clergy, religious, staff, volunteers) have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment which supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

### It is important for all personnel to:

- Always treat children, young people and other adults equally, with courtesy, respect and dignity.
- Develop a culture of openness, honesty and safety.
- Be a model of positive and appropriate behaviour to children, young people and other adults.
- Engage with young people in an open and transparent manner and take care not to show favouritism.
- Develop a culture where children and young people have permission to tell and talk about any concerns or worries they may have.
- Respect children and young people's boundaries and support them to develop their own sense and understanding of their rights.
- Be aware of the Loreto safeguarding policy and of your own responsibility to safeguard children and young people.
- Challenge and report abusive and potentially abusive behaviour.

### Personnel must never:

- Undertake any task of a personal nature with or for children or young people except in cases of medical necessity when their welfare depends on it.
- 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.
- 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 or 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:
  1. 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 the code of behaviour.
  2. As part of a planned structured piece of work, for example, one-to-one music tuition.