

Christ Church North Dublin (CCND), a membership church of Irish Church Missions (ICM)

Working in Partnership with Parents / Guardians Policy *This policy should be read in conjunction with [CCND/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. [CCND/CM] 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 [CCND/ICM].

In order to foster positive relationships and a good working partnership between clergy/staff/volunteers and parents/guardians, [CCND/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.

[CCND/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 [CCND/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. [CCND/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.

Author:	David Martin, Director; Ruth Bridcut, Brian Courtney, Simon Donohoe, Dorothy Jones	Date	Nov 2021		
Approved By:	Ian Elliot, Safeguarding Solutions and ICM Trustees	Date	2 Dec 2021		
Name:	ICM Partnership with Parents Policy.docx	Version:	1	Review Date	2 Dec 2023