



SAFEGUARDING AND MINISTERIAL INTEGRITY OFFICE

August 2020 Quarterly Newsletter

Child Protection Week

6 - 13 September 2020

The Blessed Virgin Mary's birthday falls during Child Protection Week on 8 September. As the Mother of Christ, she is also the mother of all mankind. Let us ask for her motherly intercession during Child Protection Week, for all children.

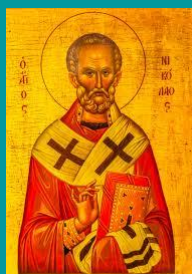
"She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley."
St Augustine



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Did you know?



St Nicholas, a 3rd Century monk, is the Patron Saint of Children



St Aloysius, a 16th Century Jesuit, is the Patron Saint of Young People

Welcome to the Safeguarding Office's Quarterly Newsletter!

The Safeguarding Office is very excited for Child Protection Week which will take place from **6 September to 13 September 2020**.

This will be the fifth year the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has promoted and engaged with Child Protection Week which was initiated 30 years ago by the [National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect](#). This week provides us with a great opportunity to think about how we can work together to keep all children safe.

As the Blessed Virgin Mary's birthday falls during Child Protection Week on 8 September, we have asked for her motherly intercession during this week for all Children throughout the world and for our work in the Safeguarding Office.

You might remember that in May, the Safeguarding Office sent out a CyberSafety Survey in response to an increase in enquiries related to online safety. We thought the findings of the survey would be a great opportunity to develop resources that would help adults, children and young people stay safe online which could be launched for Child Protection Week.

The results of the Survey were very informative and we were overwhelmed with the large response we received. We want to extend a huge thank you to all those who took part in the survey.

From the results, we have developed a range of new resources which will be launched on 6 September 2020 for Child Protection Week. Please keep an eye out on our website for their release.

Information Packs will also be sent out to our Parish Priests which contain helpful information for the launch of Child Protection Week.

New Online Refresher Safeguarding and Child Protection Training

It is mandatory within the Archdiocese and a requirement in terms of meeting our obligations under the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (Standard 7), that every three years employees complete refresher Safeguarding Training.

We have launched new *Online Refresher Safeguarding and Child Protection Training* on our online platform, to make it easier for workers to be able to complete this training.

A big thank you to all of those who contributed to these sessions by actively participating and sharing wisdom - you are helping to make the Archdiocese a safer place for children and vulnerable adults.

We are kindly asking that all Parish Priests, Administrators and Agency Heads ensure that their employees who completed the *Level 1 Safeguarding Training for Parish Staff* three years ago register for the *Online Refresher Safeguarding and Child Protection Training*. Employees can register for the refresher training course via this link: <https://forms.gle/ynWWHRpLrX48EdFq5>

If you are unsure whether or not this applies to you or you are unsure when Level 1 Safeguarding training was completed for any member of your team, please contact the Safeguarding Office on: **9390 5811** or email: safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org who will be able to answer any questions you may have.

We are all on a journey together to help make our Archdiocese a safer place for children, young people and vulnerable adults. We understand this journey will not happen overnight but by attending the Safeguarding and Child Protection Training, we are getting one step closer to achieving a safer environment.

Safeguarding Face-to-Face Training Postponed

The Safeguarding Office takes the safety and welfare of all clergy, employees and volunteers seriously so it is with great disappointment that the Safeguarding Office has to inform you that due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, ALL face-to-face Safeguarding Training has been suspended until January 2021.

For new clergy, employees and volunteers coming into the Archdiocese of Sydney, the Safeguarding Office requests that you complete the *Online Safeguarding Induction Training*. To register for the *Online Safeguarding Induction Training* please follow this link: <https://forms.gle/nh5CH5VHvLZtHBTd7>

The Safeguarding Office appreciates your patience and understanding during this time.

Parish, Chaplaincy and Agency Self-Assessments

We want to thank you so much for taking the time to complete your Parish, Agency or Chaplaincy Self-Assessment. A lot of hard work and time went into answering them and many of you have even started to action the items listed on your Continuous Improvement Plan, which is fantastic! There are currently 8 Parishes out of a total of 146 that still need to return their completed Self-Assessment. We ask that you return them by **28 September 2020** at the latest. Feel free to contact us should you need any assistance - we are more than willing to help you work through each step.

The Self-Assessments are used to help you determine if you are meeting the standards of [Catholic Professional Standards Limited](#) (CPSL). They reflect the audit format of CPSL so that when they audit you in the future, you will be familiar with the layout and will have already implemented a number of requirements. For more information about CPSL, please click [here](#).

Commitment Statement

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney upholds the dignity and rights of all children and is committed to ensuring their safety. 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.

New Risk Assessment Documents

A new policy document, [Policy: Risk Assessment Policy Guidelines](#), has been developed to help you understand the purpose and processes involved in completing Risk Assessments. Please take the time to review this document so you can better understand why and how we should be completing Risk Assessments.

To help promote continuous improvement throughout our Archdiocese, a new document titled, [Evaluation and Continuous Improvement](#), has been developed to help you identify where improvements can be made in your Risk Assessment mitigation strategies.

After the activity has been completed, you will then be able to review the mitigation strategies you listed, to see how effective they actually were in mitigating the identified risks. If you later realise that there was more that you could have done to mitigate actual and potential risks, this document will help you to be better prepared for next time. Click [here](#) to view the new [Evaluation and Continuous Improvement](#) template.

Special Religious Education (SRE) Safeguarding Induction Training

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), has developed a new Special Religious Education (SRE) Safeguarding Induction Training Certificate. After the completion of Safeguarding training with the CCD, this certificate will be issued to attendees as evidence of having completed their training.

The certificate will have a record of when the training was completed. A copy of this certificate can then be provided to your Parish Priest or Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO) along with your signed Code of Conduct.

Catechists who have completed the Safeguarding Training provided by the CCD, **do not** need to complete Parish Safeguarding Induction Training in addition to this.

The Safeguarding Office fully supports this initiative by the CCD and hopes that it will help to clarify some of the requirements around training.

If you have any queries about this new certificate, please contact the CCD:

Phone: **9307 8330**



Email: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney (CAS) SRE teacher training covers the following:

- ✓ Contact details for support and advice
- ✓ Key safeguarding terms and information
 - Overview of child protection legislation and relevant government agencies
 - Maintaining good safeguarding practices
 - Types of abuse
 - Reportable conduct
 - Responding to disclosures
 - Reporting procedures
- ✓ Relevant CAS and NSW Department of Education (DoE) codes, policies and procedures
 - CAS Code of Conduct for Working with Children
 - Safeguarding in NSW Government schools for SRE teachers (catechists and helpers)
 - Awareness of the DoE Code of Conduct and Social Media Policy (Section 23)
- ✓ Additional CAS Parish requirements and expectations
 - CAS Code of Conduct for Working with Children*
 - Guidelines for parish volunteers
 - Specific expectations for the parish setting: Behaviours to encourage and avoid | Technology and social media | Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs | Photography
 - Reporting procedures in a parish setting

***NEXT STEPS | ACTION REQUIRED**

Show this certificate and give your signed Code of Conduct to the Parish Office/Parish Safeguarding and Support Officer.





CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

This is to certify that

(Name)

has participated in Special Religious Education (SRE) Safeguarding Induction Training.

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney SRE training also meets Parish safeguarding training requirements as approved by the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office.

(Date)

(Name and Signature)

Faith Education Officer | CCD Parish Catechist Support
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
6 - 12 September 2020
PROTECTING CHILDREN IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS



The [National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect \(NAPCAN\)](#), initiated and has promoted Child Protection Week across the Nation each year since 1990. They seek to bring communities and organisations together "...with the aim of bringing abuse and neglect out of the shadows and putting child well-being on the national agenda". Click [here](#) to find out more.

Reviewed Policy and Protocols

On 1 March 2020, all our Policy and Protocol documents were reviewed and updated to ensure that the information we are providing is up-to-date and reflects legislative and regulatory changes. We are pleased to announce that all our documents have now been reviewed and updated. Please take the time to go through our Policy and Protocols on our website to become familiar with the changes. Click [here](#) to access our [website](#).

The following Fact Sheets reflect the latest legislative changes:

[Fact Sheet: Reporting Crimes to the NSW Police](#)

[Fact Sheet: Reportable Conduct Scheme](#)

[Fact Sheet: Mandatory Reporting](#)

Safeguarding Commitment Statement

We are all on a journey together to help make our Archdiocese a safer environment for children. Standard 1.1.2 of the CPSL Child Safeguarding Standards requires that we publish "...a Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement which is openly displayed and publicly available".

A way you can implement this standard and demonstrate commitment to safeguarding children is by displaying a commitment statement on your websites, bulletins, newsletters or signature blocks. Feel free to choose a platform that best suits your Parish, Agency or Chaplaincy.

The following text is an example of a commitment statement which we recommend for you to use:

"The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney upholds the dignity and rights of all children and is committed to ensuring their safety. 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."

We appreciate your support on this journey and for helping us to comply with the relevant regulatory bodies.

We request that all Priests of our Parishes display the Safeguarding notice below in all future parish bulletins.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** or **safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org**.

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



"The effective protection of minors and a commitment to ensure their human and spiritual development, in keeping with the dignity of the human person, are integral parts of the Gospel message that the Church and all members of the faithful are called to spread throughout the world."

Chirograph of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Institution of a Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors [22 March 2014].