Diocesan Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Persons Office
St. Goretti's Centre

Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong

Guidelines for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Persons

Mission

"*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.*" (Matthew 5:14). Our Lord Jesus Christ calls on every believer to be an example of virtue, integrity, and holiness. Ensuring the safety of minors and vulnerable persons is an integral part of the Church's mission. Everyone has his unique value, created in the image and likeness of God. In fact, *"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" – Excerpt from the Papal Encyclical of Pope Francis "You Are the Light of the World" and Guidelines for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Persons*

As a Safeguarder (all personnel involves in services for children, youth and vulnerable persons), one should recognise the core values of the Catholic faith and practise them by nurturing children and youth through our words and actions.

Caring for Children, Youth and Vulnerable Persons

Care for and protect children, youth and vulnerable persons on the basis of respecting differences. Create a harmonious, rational, healthy, and safe environment. Prevent risks and deter any illegal or inappropriate activities.

Safeguarders should guide children and youth gently and teach them with respect. Under no circumstances should they physically or mentally punish children and youth, or reprimand them with disrespectful language or shout at them.

Protecting the Vulnerable:

Remain vigilant. Immediately report any suspected cases of child abuse, bullying, attempted suicide, or any situations involving personal safety to the relevant superiors and take appropriate follow-up measures.
Without prior consent of the relevant superiors, safeguarders must not lead children and youth in any activities outside the Church's agenda.
Maintain appropriate safeguarder children/vulnerable persons relationships. Communicate with the correct attitude, avoid intimate contact, and keep an appropriate physical distance.
Safeguarders must not, for personal benefits, grant special treatment, accept bribes, or receive any form of benefit from children, youth or their related persons.

Respecting Privacy:

Information, photos, or videos released by safeguarders on any platform (media, online social networks, etc.) must not cast a negative image on the Church or violate the privacy of children and youth.

Respect the privacy of children and parents. When collecting, storing, using, and transmitting personal data, strictly adhere to the practical guidelines set forth in Section 12 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. Personal data of children, youth and parents must be handled with care and stored securely. Under no circumstances should personal data be provided to any third party without the prior authorization or consent of the children's parents.