



ARCHDIOCESE
OF BRISBANE

SAFE PRACTICE GUIDE

Developing a Code of Conduct for Children

NCSS 2.1.1, 2.1.2 2.2.1

Why is this important?

Supporting children and young people to develop their own code of conduct empowers them to set rules for their participation and in doing so become partners in managing their own safety.

What should we be doing?

Provide opportunities for children and young people to develop a code of conduct for themselves. When engaged in the process, listened to and taken seriously they will 'own' the code, support it and protect it.

Guide discussions, and support children, and young people to collectively develop content for the code. A template may be used for this purpose. (see the Safeguarding Resources page on the Archdiocesan public website)

Keep an open mind when discussing content for the code. Children and young people are attuned to issues affecting them. Address the issues important to them.

Ask children and young people what they consider is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour when participating in the activity.

An appropriate code should address (but is not limited to) the following points:

- the behaviour of children and young people towards each other and adults
- supportive and respectful behaviour (including online or by technology - if applicable)
- maintaining appropriate personal/physical boundaries
- following rules for their safety and wellbeing
- reporting safety concerns and incidents
- children's rights (including the right to feel safe and be protected)
- consequences for unacceptable behaviour or breaking rules (particularly for young people/teenagers)

To be effective, the code should be fair, reasonable, succinct, written in age appropriate language and in a child friendly format.

Consideration may be given to developing separate codes for younger children and young people/teenagers.

Young people may be asked to sign the code but only with the knowledge and consent of their parent or guardian.

Communicate and promote the code to all relevant children, young people, parents, guardians and adults.

Provide a copy of the code to all children and young people when they first join the activity. Explain the code and how it applies to them.