

Working in Partnership with Parents/Guardians Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Carrigrohane Union of Parishes' Communication Policy.

Working in partnership with parents/guardians helps to safeguard children. Carrigrohane Union of Parishes 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 Carrigrohane Union of Parishes.

In order to foster positive relationships and a good working partnership between clergy/staff/volunteers and parents/guardians Carrigrohane Union of Parishes shall:

- Ensure that all clergy, staff and volunteers working with their child are introduced to parents/guardians;
- Provide parents/guardians with information leaflets 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;
- Regularly provide feedback to parents on their child's progress and participation.

The Carrigrohane Union of Parishes shall encourage all parents to:

- Ask questions about policies and procedures;
- Make suggestions or comments;
- Ask about their child's experiences in the organisation;
- Talk to clergy/staff/volunteers about how their child is getting on in activities;
- Keep clergy, staff and volunteers informed about family events/situations that may be causing children anxiety;
- Attend events organised by the Carrigrohane Union of Parishes.

It is essential that this working partnership is based on mutual respect and values 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. Carrigrohane Union of Parishes may seek to speak with parents/guardians if a concern arises about their child or before a report is going to be made to Tusla in line with the Safeguarding Trust however, there may be circumstances in which it is not possible or appropriate to do so.