

::12.33 WE CARE WITH U! (PARENT'S GUIDE)

Welcome!

This Guide, for parents and carers, is to let you know what you can expect of those who will be looking after your child while at church organisation and how you, as a parent, can help us with that responsibility.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has a Child Protection programme called 'Taking Care'. Our aim is to create a safe environment for children, young people and leaders.

Child Protection Policy

Every Presbyterian congregation should have a child protection policy and a policy statement should be visible on the church premises.

Taking Care Training is provided for everyone who works with children and young people and recommended every three years.

Every congregation should have at least one Designated Person for child protection through whom any concerns about a child should be discussed.

Recruitment Procedures

All new leaders for regular positions must go through a recruitment process which includes references and a criminal records check.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is registered with Access Northern Ireland.

Good Advice

Encourage leaders and give them your support. Remember they are mostly volunteers!

Get to know who is working with your child.

Why not offer to help when an extra pair of hands may be needed.

If you have any concerns or suggestions talk to a leader.

Parents

Your Child's Medication

You have a responsibility to tell leaders about any medical conditions that your children have.

Remember to inform leaders if there has been a significant change to your child's medication.

If your child has any special needs, then talk to the leaders and tell them what is required!

Consent Forms

Parents please return consent forms as soon as possible! Let us know of any change in details e.g. new phone number.

Rules

For their safety, children should abide by the rules! Parents are encouraged to talk to leaders if they have any concerns.

Leaders

Parental Consent and Data Protection

Leaders are responsible for making sure:

Consent forms are given to children in their organisation

Parents' contact details are not given out to other parties unless permission has been sought

They have parental consent if they are going to be taking photographs or video of children

Leaders Should:

Never use force other than to defend a child

Never humiliate a child

Not tolerate bullying and inform parents if this is serious

REMEMBER! If a leader is concerned for a child's welfare they must contact the Designated Person for child protection within the congregation!

Leaders should accommodate children who have special needs within their group as much as they can.

Emergency and First Aid:

If a child has been injured leaders will complete an accident form and tell parents.

All organisations should have a nominated person for First Aid and all leaders should act as a responsible parent would in the event of a child being hurt.

In an emergency parents are to be contacted.

Also produced by Taking Care:

'We Care 4 U!' (Children's Guide)

'We Care 4 U Too!' (Leader's Guide)

Useful Contacts

Stop It Now! **0808 1000 900**

NSPCC **0808 8005 000**

ISPC **(00353) 1800 666 666**

Parents Advice Centre **0808 8010 722** www.parentsadvicecentre.org

Childline **0800 1111**

Child Exploitation Online Protection www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Kindly Sponsored by The Presbyterian Orphan and Children's Society

Produced by the Taking Care Office **(028) 9041 7290**

takingcare@presbyterianireland.org

www.pcibsw.org/takingcare

Out of Hours Helpline

(for Child Protection Advice)

028 9041 7235 (if calling from Northern Ireland)

048 9041 7235 (if calling from the Republic of Ireland)