



Risk Assessment for parish groups
(e.g. parish choir / altar servers / children liturgy / programmes for Sacramental preparation)

updated, Sept, 2026

Parish	
Name of parish group	
Date risk assessment reviewed	
Name and role of person(s) reviewing the risk assessment	

Risk	Who is at risk?	Likelihood of harm	Consequence	Control needed	Tick if completed or write what actions need to be taken
Unsuitable group leaders	Children and other group leaders	Low	Child safeguarding concerns	- Safe recruitment procedures - Vetting - Code of behaviour for adults supervising children - All leaders aware of safeguarding procedures - Two leaders for the group have attended safeguarding training	
Unsuitable venue for practice	Children and Adults	Low	Health and safety	Suitable room that is conducive to teaching and learning for children	
Inadequate toilet facilities	Children	Low	Child safeguarding concerns	- Location of toilet facilities assessed - Toilets must be fit for purpose - Leaders clearly instructed around toilet procedures for children during the session	

Data Protection The information in this form will be used to facilitate your application to volunteer in the diocese/parish. The information will be stored confidentially and will only be shared outside the parish/group where there is a legal obligation on the parish/group to do so. The information will be retained in compliance with Safeguarding laws and policies including retention policies. Your data will be processed under the General Data Protection Regulation, (EU) 2016/679) and the Data Protection Acts 1988-2018. By signing this form, you consent you your data being used in this way.

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				• Disabled toilets are available, or toilets are accessible • Toilets are not located external to building	
Not enough leaders for the activity	Children	Low	Child safeguarding concerns	• Follow supervision ratios outlined in Safeguarding Handbook • Ensure that adult leaders agree to arrive at venue before children • Rota for activity shared and agreed with leaders	
Child wandering from the group	Children	Low	Child safeguarding concerns	• Sign in and out register complete • Procedure agreed with parent/guardian for dropping and collecting children • Children understand and agree to code of behaviour • Assess number of entrances and exists in building	
Medical issue with a child	Children	Medium	Health and safety	• Emergency contact information for parents/guardians on consent forms • Review medical information in consent forms • Fully stocked first aid kit available in building • Accident and incident form available and are completed following an accident / incident. • Parents notified of accident / incident when collecting child (good practice to give copy of form to parents).	

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				Serious accidents / emergencies: contact numbers for emergency services / parents or guardians readily available.	
Child misbehaves	Other children	High	Disrupts activity Upsets other children	- Children are aware and agree to code of behaviour. - Discuss with parents/guardians if necessary	
Parents doesn't turn up to collect child	Children	Low	Child is upset Safeguarding concern	- Two adult leaders stay with the child - Procedure for dropping and collecting agreed with parents - Telephone numbers for parents recorded in consent forms	
Activity is not inclusive for those with additional needs	Young person and adults	Medium	Room not suitable for those with poor mobility. Minimal supervision ratios. Health and safety.	- Ensure room used are accessible to all - Disabled toilets are available, or toilets are accessible - Increase supervision ratios when needed - Parental consultation with group leader re: child's needs prior to activity	
Bullying	Young person and adults	Medium	Safeguarding concerns	- Code of Conduct in place for Children/Young People - Code of Conduct for Adults/Leaders - All incidents of bullying to be brought to attention of group leader immediately - Accident/Incident Forms available - Discuss incidents with parents/guardians where necessary	
Unauthorised adult being part of the activity	Young person and adults	Low	Safeguarding concerns	All adults working with the young people to be Garda vetted, trained (where appropriate)	

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				• New staff/volunteers to go through parish recruitment procedures • Supervision rota in place • Number of entrances and exits is limited • Sign in / sign out book complete • Drop off and collection point agreed with parents	
Unauthorised photography / recording of videos	Young person and adults	Medium	Safeguarding concerns	• Parents to explicitly give consent for photos/videos on consent form. • Leaders aware of Diocesan Social Media policy & procedures. • Storage of photos/videos in line with Diocesan GDPR policy and procedures, and Diocesan Social Media policy	
Inadequate Fire Safety procedures	Young person and adults	Medium	Health and Safety	• Leaders and children aware of fire exits and assembly points • Fire drill / procedures explained to children • Assembly point(s) clearly marked •	
Leaders not informed about DLP contact details	Young person and adults	Low	Safeguarding concerns	• Leaders attend safeguarding training where appropriate • Co-ordinator informs all leaders about Diocesan DLP structure • Safeguarding posters displayed on site	



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If necessary, add additional risks below

Signature of those completing the form:

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