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Malahide Parish

**DOCUMENT: Child Protection Service**

**TITLE: Meetings with Children and  
Young People**

**DATE: 01.06.2023**

**ISSUED BY: Co -Parish Priest**

**APPROVED BY: Parish Council**

**REF. NO: CPS 03**

**REVISION: 11**

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1. **PURPOSE**

To ensure that meetings and activities with Children and young People (persons under 18 years of age) are carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Parish Pastoral Council

2. **Scope**

This procedure applies to all groups operating in a church setting - including visiting groups and or people renting accommodation owned or leased by the Parish.

3. **RESPONSIBILITY**

Implementation: Co-Parish Priest

Authority to Change: Parish Pastoral Council

4. **PROCEDURE**

4.1 In all parish-premises based activities; the following ratio must be maintained;

2 adults for the first 10 children;

1 additional adult for 10 or less additional children.

If the pastoral care of a child or young person necessitates meeting alone on a one-to-one basis, then such meetings should not be held in an isolated environment and “professional boundaries” must be established. These professional boundaries include but are not restricted to:

- the times and designated locations for meetings and
- allow for transparency and accountability (for example, be held in rooms with a clear glass panel, or window, in buildings where other people are present, and / or with the door of the room left open). These professional boundaries must also apply to the sacrament of confession where the sacrament is held outside the confessional.



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- 4.2 Both the length and number of meetings should be limited.
  - 4.3 Parents or guardians should be informed that the meeting(s) took place, except in circumstances where to do so might place the child in danger.
  - 4.4 Visits to the home or private living quarters of Church personnel should not be encouraged, nor should meetings be conducted in such locations.
  - 4.5 When the need for a visit to the home of a child or young person arises, professional boundaries as set out in Para 4.1 must be observed at all times.

## 5. REVISION

<b>Rev</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comment</b>
0	01/05/07	New
1	12/12/08	Procedural review
2	07.12.09	Procedural Review
3	28.02.10	Procedure Review
4	28.08.11	Procedural Review
5	07.10.13	Procedural Review
6	01.01.15	Procedural Review
7	01.01.17	Procedural Review
8	01.01.19	Procedural Review
9	24.02.21	Procedural Review
10	01.05.22	Procedural Review
11	01.06.23	Procedural Review