

# INFORMATION HANDBOOK

*for young people*



## SAFEGUARDING YOUNG PEOPLE

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY



THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY ACKNOWLEDGES THE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES AS THE FIRST INHABITANTS OF THE NATION AND THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LANDS WHERE WE LIVE, LEARN AND WORK.

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# OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We are committed to providing you with an environment where you can learn and have fun safely. We have ensured that your safety is embedded within our organisation to make sure you are heard, respected and valued.

You can read more about this in our [Code of Conduct](#) which can be found on our [website](#).

## Our commitment statement confirms that:

- We have a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse
- We will respond promptly and effectively to all abuse concerns and complaints
- We uphold the dignity and rights of all children and young people
- We will prioritise the safety of children and young people



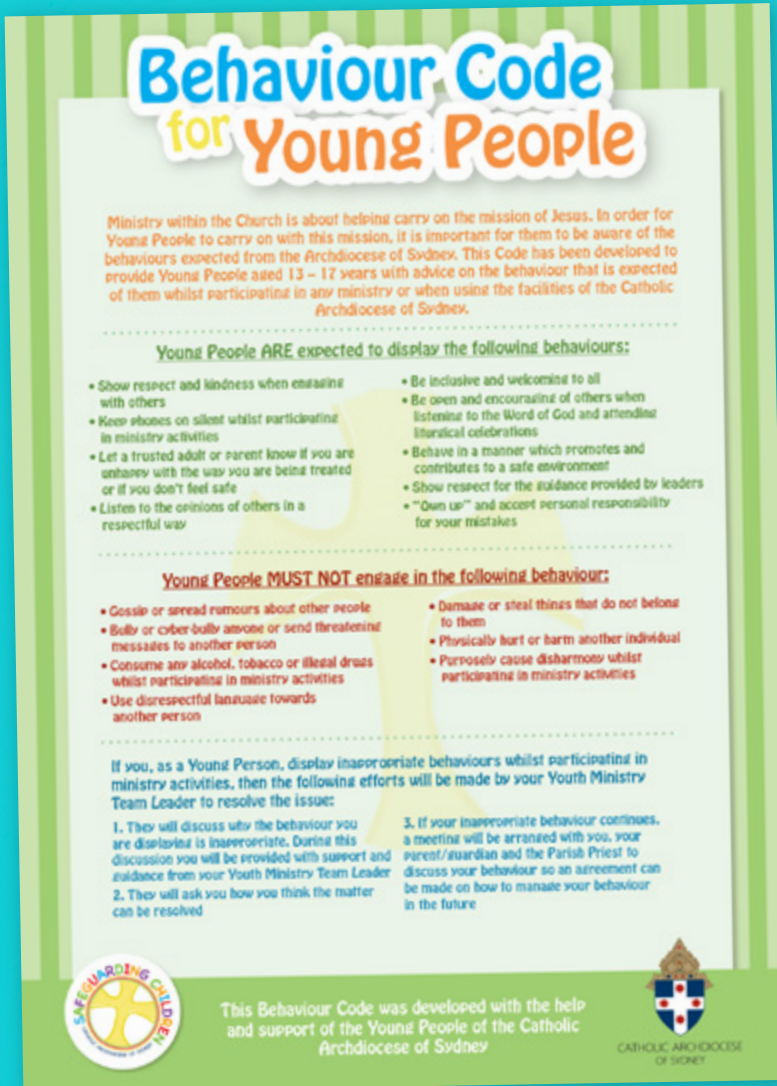
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# CODE OF CONDUCT

## (WHAT WE CAN EXPECT FROM EACH OTHER)

The Archdiocese, together with our community, is responsible for creating a safe and nurturing environment for you.



To help achieve this, adults sign a **Code of Conduct** agreeing to follow certain behaviours. These include, caring for you, being respectful and compassionate and making sure you are safe when they work or engage in activities with you.

You are expected to display certain behaviours as well. These include, showing kindness and respect to others, being inclusive and welcoming, and listening to others. More information can be found on the **Behaviour Code for Young People** poster on our **website**.

For more information on our Code of Conduct, **click here**.

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13: 34-35*



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# BEHAVIOUR CODE

## for young people

Ministry within the Church is about helping carry on the mission of Jesus. In order for you to carry on with this mission, it is important for you to be aware of the behaviours we expect from you.

Here are some of the behaviours we expect you to display from our **Behaviour Code for Young People** Journey poster:

- **Show respect and kindness** when engaging with others
- **Keep phones on silent** whilst participating in ministry activities
- **Let a trusted adult or parent know** if you are unhappy with the way you are being treated or if you don't feel safe
- **Listen to the opinions of others** in a respectful way
- **Be inclusive and welcoming** to all
- **Be open and encouraging** of others when listening to the Word of God and attending liturgical celebrations
- **Behave in a manner** which promotes and contributes to a safe environment
- **Show respect** for the guidance provided by leaders
- **"Own up" and accept personal responsibility** for your mistakes



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# REPORTING ANY CONCERNS

When dealing with concerns, your safety is our priority. If you hear or see something that makes you feel uncomfortable, scared, anxious, curious, sad or worried, make sure you speak to a trusted adult.

- They will listen carefully to what you have to say
- They will reassure you when you speak to them
- They will write down what you have shared with them
- They will seek help for you where appropriate to resolve the matter



**Please speak to an adult you trust such as a parent or teacher if you have any concerns.**

**Headspace: 1800 650 890 [Headspace.org.au](https://www.headspace.org.au)**

**Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 [kidshelpline.com.au](https://www.kidshelpline.com.au)**



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# YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As a young person, you have certain rights and responsibilities. Children and Young People of the Archdiocese helped us to create a postcard to help you know your rights and responsibilities.

[Click here](#) to download the postcard.



The Rights and Responsibilities postcard was based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. World leaders came together in 1989 and made a commitment to children throughout the world.

They made a promise to protect and fulfil children's rights by making a legal framework for the whole world.

[Click here](#) to access a simplified version of the Rights of the Child.

Pope Francis has even written a letter to Young People titled *Christus Vivit* - this is latin for Christ is Alive! In his letter, Pope Francis reminds us how much the world needs young people like you! [Click here](#) to read his full letter.

***"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!"***

- *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis



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