

# LEGION OF MARY

## SENATUS OF MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

### CHILD SAFETY

The Legion of Mary holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children as a fundamental responsibility of the Church. This commitment is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the dignity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel. A culture of safety within the Church ensures that children can actively and fully participate in the life of the Church and realise their potential in a faith community.

**We are committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.**

The Legion of Mary has a mission-driven moral and legal responsibility to create nurturing environments where children are respected, where their voices are heard, and where they are safe and feel safe.

**We are committed to creating a child safe culture that safeguards children and young people from all forms of abuse.**

All child safety concerns and allegations will be treated very seriously, and reported in line with our moral and legal obligations.

**We are committed to zero tolerance of all forms of child abuse and discrimination, and will always act to safeguard children and young people and report suspected abuse promptly to the appropriate authorities.**

We are resolutely committed to ensuring that all those engaged in the Legion of Mary are aware of the inherent vulnerability of all children and young people and acknowledge their own responsibility to promote the dignity of children and young people and their fundamental right to be respected and nurtured in a safe environment.

**We are committed to ensuring that all persons who have or may be expected to have contact with children and young people acknowledge their responsibility to safeguard children and young people from abuse and discrimination.**



# OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We commit to making our Church a safe place for children and young people and protecting them from harm.



**You are special and will always be welcome in our Church.**



**What you think and feel is important to us.**

**We will make sure our leaders and helpers understand their responsibilities to keep you safe.**



**We respect you just the way you are.**

**If you feel unsafe or are worried about someone else's safety, we will listen and take this seriously.**



**We will help you to be safe. This means that if you are being hurt or are in danger of being hurt, we will speak to the Police or another person who can help you.**



**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT**

Phone: 9926 5621 Email: [psu@cam.org.au](mailto:psu@cam.org.au)



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE

# My Code of Behaviour for Church activities

## I will

- Care for others and respect other opinions and decisions
- Co-operate and be helpful to others
- Listen to others and know I have a right to be heard
- Follow the rules set for Church activities by my leader
- Respect others' social distance (personal space)
- Only use the internet with my Church leader's permission
- Report anything that worries me or makes me feel unsafe to my Church leader or Safeguarding Officer
- Be treated with respect even if I misbehave

## 3 STAGES OF DISCIPLINE

**1. The Church leader**  
will ask me to stop  
my behaviour

**2. The Church leader**  
will contact  
my parents

**3. The Church**  
leader will ask  
me to leave



*Design based on the 2017 Child Protection Breakfast Poster Competition winner – Miss Ashlin Kanichai*



**CHILD WISE**  
creating child safe communities

# Every child has the right to feel safe



#bechildwise

[www.childwise.org.au](http://www.childwise.org.au)

# FEEL SAFE AND BE SAFE AT OUR CHURCH



## YOU HAVE RIGHTS

You have the right to feel safe and be safe from harm.

## YOU ARE VALUED & RESPECTED

You have the right not to be hurt, spoken to rudely or made to feel uncomfortable.

## WE WILL PROTECT

We will protect children and young people.

## WE WILL LISTEN & BELIEVE

We will listen to children and young people and believe them.

## WE WILL RESPOND

We will respond to matters of safety and harm.

## IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE, PLEASE CONTACT:



A family member  
or a trusted person  
you feel safe  
talking to.



Police  
**000**



kids**helpline**  
Anytime | Any Reason

Kids Helpline  
**1800 551 800**

## AND THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT.

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# RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



I have the right to feel safe and be safe from harm.

I have a responsibility to follow safety rules within my parish and not engage in bullying or harmful behaviours toward others.



I have the right to be accepted and supported, whatever my ability and differences.

I have the responsibility to care, support and accept others.



I have the right to express my views openly and honestly in all matters affecting me.

I have the responsibility to respect other people's views.

I have the right to speak up and seek help and support if I have been hurt or abused.



I have the responsibility to seek help for myself and others if they need it.



I have the right to participate in my Church community, to grow and practise my faith.

I have the responsibility to use the teachings of my faith to respect others, live peacefully and to care for our world.

These rights and many more can be found in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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# THE RIGHTS

## of all children & young people



Almost all of the countries in the world came together and agreed that all children and young people have an important set of rights that can never be taken away from them. It does not matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is and whether they have a disability.

They all have the right to be loved, BE cared for, be safe, have an education and be special. All adults should try their hardest to make sure that children are supported to grow up free from being hurt.



All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

You have the right to give your opinion, express your view, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.



You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others.

You have the right to live with and be raised by your parents, unless it is harmful for you.



You have the right to practise your own culture, language and religion - or any you choose.

You have the right to your own nationality (to belong to a country).



You have the right to help if you have been hurt, neglected or abused.

You have the right to be protected from being hurt or abused.

You have the right to the best health care possible.



Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

You have the right to protection from work that harms you, and is bad for your health and education. If you work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.



You have the right for your personal information to not be given out to anyone without your agreement.



You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability.

You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in another country).



If you live in care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are ok and right for you.

You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. You should be able to do many of the things other children can do.



You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

You have the right to choose your own friends.



You have the right to live with a family who cares for you.

You have the right to special care and protection if you cannot live with your parents.



You have the right to legal help and fair treatment by police, judges and magistrates.

You have the right to play and rest.



All these rights and more are written down in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

# We want children and young people to *FEEL SAFE AND BE SAFE*



It is never OK for anyone to hurt you.



**feel comfortable**



**feel cared for**



**feel safe**

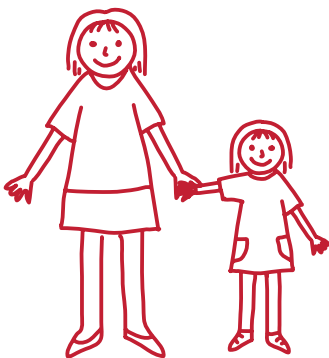


**are safe**

Everyone who works here will do their best to make sure that you:

If you are not happy with something that is happening here or there is something you are worried about, we want you to tell someone you trust.

You can tell someone who works here.



You can also tell someone who looks out for you, like your mum or dad, a carer or a teacher.



**We will try as hard as we can to fix any problem or worry that you have.**

**We will always listen to you.**



**We will always treat what you tell us seriously, no matter how old you are.**



# ACTIVITY FOR FEELINGS

- Colour in the unsafe feelings **red** and colour in the safe feelings **green** and if you think any of the feelings can be either safe or unsafe colour these in **orange**.

Happy	Depressed	Nervous	Tired	Curious
Afraid	Frustrated	Relaxed	Unsafe	Concerned
Angry	Energetic	Proud	Hurt	Funny
Confident	Sad	Bored	Mad	Joyful
Ashamed	Scared	Glad	Silly	Disappointed
Jealous	Confident	Confused	Bullied	Pleased
Embarrassed	Shy	Stressed	Thankful	Anxious
Excited	Lonely	Surprised	Worried	Sick
Loved	Annoyed	Optimistic	Shocked	Conflicted
Insulted	Safe	Cheerful	Ignored	Grumpy
Guilty	Lucky	Tired	Merry	Frightened

## IDEAS BOX

Play games – Feeling Words Bingo, make play-doh feelings figurines, paint Feelings rocks, make a feelings chart, make your own feeling words ball or feelings sock puppets, feelings regulation exercises – deep breathing, counting backwards, stress balls.

- Read Luke 2:41 about Jesus in the Temple. Discuss the feelings experienced by Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

# My Helping Hand



The people we choose to put on our helping hand must be

A Grown Up:

- 1** Available
- 2** Someone I trust
- 3** Someone who listens and believes me
- 4** Someone who can take action to help me

# What is Child Abuse?



Hitting or hurting a child's body



Exposing a child to violence



Teasing or being mean to a child



Yelling at or threatening a child



Touching a child's private parts



Forcing a child to touch you



Showing pornography to a child



Taking sexual photos or videos of a child



Not showing a child love and attention



Leaving a child without adult care



Not providing enough food, clothing or medical needs for a child



Being intoxicated in front of a child



# LEGION OF MARY

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## CHILD SAFETY IN THE LEGION OF MARY


All children have the right to feel safe,  
participate in parish life and be happy.


**If YOU feel unsafe** (this may be any form of 'hurt' including physical or emotional) you can:

Speak to a member of the Child Safety Team

Speak to our Spiritual Director Fr Justin Ford

### What will happen?

 You will be listened to

 You will get some help so that you are safe

### The Legion of Mary is committed to the protection of children

The safety, well-being and inclusion of children in our community is of utmost importance and everyone is encouraged to play a personal role in ensuring these aims are achieved at all times.

