



Malahide Parish

DOCUMENT: Child Protection Service

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

DATE: 28.02.10

ISSUED BY: Parish Priest

APPROVED BY: Parish Council

REF. NO: CPS 03

REVISION: 3

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: 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

| Rev | Date | Comment |
|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 0 | 01/05/2007 | New |
| 1 | 12/12/08 | Procedural review |
| 2 | 07.12.09 | Procedural Review |
| 3 | 28.02.10 | Procedure Review |