1.6B GUIDANCE IN WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS/CARERS

The Church of Ireland sees the welfare of children as paramount and therefore seeks to form positive relationships between church personnel and parents/carers to encourage mutual trust and support; therefore dioceses/parishes should adopt a policy for working in partnership with parents/carers ***(1.6B Template 1)***. This policy should include the opportunity for parents to receive copies of the Safeguarding Policy (including its guiding principles) on request.

1.6B TEMPLATE 1: TEMPLATE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS/CARERS POLICY

Working in partnership with parents/carers helps to safeguard children.

[INSERT NAME OF PARISH/DIOCESE]

sees the welfare of children as paramount and therefore seeks to form positive relationships between clergy, staff/volunteers and parents/carers to encourage mutual trust and support.

Partnership with parents/carers and families involves information sharing and consultation regarding all aspects of their child's participation in

[INSERT NAME OF PARISH/DIOCESE/DIOCESAN BODY/ORGANISATION]

In order to foster positive relationships and a good working partnership between clergy/staff/volunteers and parents/carers

[INSERT NAME OF PARISH/DIOCESE/DIOCESAN BODY/ORGANISATION]

shall:

- Ensure that all clergy, staff and volunteers working with their child are introduced to parents/carers.
- Provide parents/carers with information leaflets on Child Safeguarding Policy.
- Make available to parents/carers, via their website, all relevant policies and procedures.
- Ensure that clergy/staff/volunteers make themselves available to talk to parents/carers informally on a regular basis.
- Allow parents/carers the opportunity to visit their child's activity from time to time.
- Regularly provide information on activities and events both verbally and in writing.
- Regularly provide feedback to parents on their child's progress and participation.

The *[PARISH/DIOCESE/DIOCESAN BODY/ORGANISATION]*

shall encourage all parents/carers to:

- Ask questions about policies and procedures.
- Make suggestions or comments.
- Ask about their child's experiences in the organisation.
- Talk to clergy/staff/volunteers about how their child is getting on in activities.
- Keep clergy, staff and volunteers informed about family events/situations that may be causing children anxiety.
- Attend events organised by the *[PARISH/DIOCESE/DIOCESAN BODY/ORGANISATION)]*

It is essential that this working partnership is based on mutual respect and value so that if an occasion arises whereby a clergy, staff member or volunteer has a concern about a child, this can be discussed with parents/carers if appropriate.

[INSERT NAME OF PARISH/DIOCESE/DIOCESAN BODY/ORGANISATION]

may seek to speak with parents/carers if a concern arises about their child or before a report is going to be made to the statutory authorities in line with the Child Safeguarding Policy; however, there may be circumstances in which it is not possible or appropriate to do so.

Adopted by the Select Vestry on