

STANDARD 5

TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE GUIDANCE FOR INDICATOR 5.5

5.5A Guidance on Raising Awareness of Child Safeguarding with Children and their Parents/ Guardians in the Church

The participation of children and guardians in child safeguarding awareness initiatives is an important component in safeguarding children. Children and guardians should be actively engaged in Church child safeguarding initiatives, where possible and appropriate.

Child and guardian participation helps to empower children and guardians, to promote awareness of child safeguarding, and to create safe environments where children have 'permission to tell'.

Children's perspectives and experiences help to support efforts to consolidate effective child protection systems and uphold a culture of respect for children's rights in society.

Designing workshops with young people

When designing workshops for children involved in Church activities, the following should be considered:

- It is important to remember that the discussion of safeguarding with young people must be appropriate to the age level and ability of the children in each group. Any information delivered to them must be designed with this in mind, and it is vital that parents/guardians are made aware of this information and encouraged to participate where possible;
- Safeguarding awareness workshops happen routinely in schools and during youth activities, but young people do not always make the link between what happens in school and its applicability in a Church setting, therefore it is important to reinforce these messages in an age-appropriate way;
- Workshops should be focused on the importance of young people telling someone if they are being hurt; they should not reinforce messages that frighten or upset them;
- Workshops should highlight a number of people whom children can go to report abuse, such as their parents/guardians, teachers, Church group leaders, the DLP, Childline, etc.;
- Attendance records of these workshops, and the plan for the workshop itself, should be retained and stored appropriately.

Skills

Not everyone has the required skills to work with children and young people, and any work undertaken with them around safeguarding should only be carried out by people who have the necessary skills. Church authorities are encouraged to identify volunteers or professionals within their Church body with these skill sets, should they decide to undertake awareness-raising workshops with young people.

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Resources

When developing any work with children, it is important that links are established with relevant people and organisations in the locality. This is done so that their advice and support can be sought, and that any work carried out should be in line with the guidance provided in Standard 1: Creating and Maintaining Safe Environments.

Resources and a workshop for children have been provided for trainers registered with the NBSCCCI. These can be used alongside leaflets and resources contained in Standard 6 (6.2A, Templates 1–4). For further help or support, contact can be made with the NBSCCCI training manager.