



*Holy Family Church
2 Highfield Rd, Lindfield*

CATHOLIC PARISH *of Lindfield- Killara*



*Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
76A Fiddens Wharf Rd, Killara*

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN IN OUR PARISH

Our parish is committed to the safeguarding of children and has a wide range of initiatives in place to achieve this:

- a member of staff is nominated as our Child Protection Coordinator. Alison Williams ensures our compliance with all government and Church requirements for the safeguarding of children and for the appropriate checks to be made on relevant parish staff and volunteers.
- we are also in the process of setting up a small group of parishioners as 'Safeguarding Advocates' who will meet regularly with Alison to review our parish processes and procedures to ensure that the safety of children is paramount in all that we do.
- all parishioners who work in ministries which brings them into contact with children are required to have a Working With Children Check (WWCC) as required in law to confirm that they have no history of crimes against children.
- in addition to that check we ensure that children in a parish setting are never with a single adult alone:
 - for example we require that there always be two adult leaders for our Sunday Children's Liturgy of the Word sessions and the leaders are required to wear identification provided so that the children know they are authorised leaders;
 - for example, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, when celebrated with children, is always celebrated in public view on the sanctuary of the church.
- before all major parish events a Risk Assessment is undertaken by our parish Child Protection Coordinator and Workplace Health and Safety Officer (and where appropriate our Youth Ministry Coordinator) to consider every facet of the event and the ways that we need to ensure the safety of children.
- in accordance with diocesan policy our clergy are obtaining a National Police History Check and in due course this will be extended to all parish staff.
- in accordance with diocesan policy there is now a register in the sacristy of each church where any visiting clergy have to sign in along with providing documentation that they are currently cleared to be in active ministry.
- the issue of safeguarding of children is discussed at every parish staff meeting so that we are proactively reflecting on all aspects of parish life so as to ensure the safety and well-being of our young people.

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