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DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER SAFE ENVIRONMENT CURRICULUM

I. **Programs for Those in Ministry**

A. **Not on My Watch Online Training for Adults**

B. **Protecting God's Children Training for Adults**

Summary: The *Not on My Watch* online training and the *Protecting God's Children* live training programs teach adults how to protect children by making participants aware of the signs of child abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse, the reporting procedures for suspected abuse, and the steps one can take to prevent child sexual abuse.

Not on My Watch training consists of four segments: Neglect; Physical Abuse; Victims of Sexual Abuse; and Perpetrators of Sexual Abuse.

Two videos are the centerpiece of *Protecting God's Children* training: *A Time to Protect God's Children* and *A Plan to Protect God's Children*.

Audience: All adults in ministry who regularly work with minors (clerics, religious, employees, and volunteers) and interested parents.

Implementation Goal: The *Protecting God's Children* program has been offered in the Diocese of Manchester since 2001. The Diocese offers the program in every deanery on a regular basis throughout the year. The *Not on My Watch* online training has been available since September 2011. *Not on My Watch* also will be used for refresher training beginning in January 2012 (ongoing or refresher training is required of all employees and volunteers who regularly work with minors at least once every three years).

C. **Safe Environment Program for Teens (16 and 17 years old)**

Summary: In this live training program developed by *Protecting God's Children* trainers, teenagers who volunteer for ministry with younger children (such as in religious education programs) learn about appropriate boundaries in and standards for ministry, including but not limited to handling discipline matters, rules for supervision, and reporting incidents and concerns.

Audience: Teenagers 16 and 17 years old who regularly work with children in their ministry are invited to attend. Parents of the teenagers are also invited to attend. This is not a mandatory program.

Implementation Goal: The program has been offered to parishes since January 2005 and is available upon request.

II. **Programs for Children and Young People**

A. **Circles of Care (Pre-K through Grade 12)**

Summary: This curriculum addresses age appropriate personal safety issues for children and youth and is introduced in the context of religious education in parish religious education programs and in the diocesan Catholic Schools. *Circles of Care* for the elementary levels has been developed to complement the *Safe and Sound All Around* program, while the curriculum for the older grades is based on lessons contained in the book Creating Safe and Sacred Places by McGlone, Shrader and Delgatto (St. Mary's Press, 2003).

Grades Pre-K through 6: The curriculum for grades K through 6 includes age appropriate lessons for each grade with the following general outcomes- The learner will be able to:

- Recognize that respect for self and others is grounded in being created in God's image and likeness
- Identify potentially dangerous situations
- Name ways to steer away from potentially dangerous situations
- Identify trusted adults
- Identify places that are safe
- Demonstrate skills for handling difficult situations

The grade PreK-6 curriculum also includes take-home materials.

Grades 7 through 8: The curriculum for grades 7 through 8 includes one lesson with the following general outcomes-The learner will be able to:

- Recognize that respect for self and others is grounded in being created in God's image and likeness
- Identify potentially dangerous situations
- Name ways to steer away from potentially dangerous situations
- Identify practical tools for creating a safe environment

Grades 9 through 12: The curriculum for grades 9 through 12 includes one basic lesson with the following outcomes: The learner will be able to:

- identify the risk factors associated with sexual abuse
- develop a plan for responding to and supporting others in a crisis situation
- identify tools to identify and steer away from questionable and potentially dangerous situations

The grade 9-12 curriculum also includes 3 supplemental lessons on the topics of bullying & harassment, hazing, and relationships.

Audience: Students in grades pre-K through 12 in parish religious education programs and in the diocesan Catholic schools.

Implementation Goal: All schools and parishes will be expected to complete the curriculum (or its alternative, *Netsmartz*- see below) for all students on or before April 30 each year.

B. *Netsmartz.org*

Summary: *Netsmartz* is an interactive, educational safety resource developed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America to teach children and youth how to stay safer on the internet. The program consists of videos and corresponding lesson plans.

The Diocese of Manchester uses the following *Netsmartz* lessons:

- Check First (separate lesson plans for grades K-2 and 3-4)
- Tell A Trusted Adult (separate lesson plans for grades K-2 and 3-4)
- Tracking Teresa (grades 5-6)
- Tracking Teresa/Middle School Lesson Plan (grades 7-12)
- Cyberbullying- You Can't Take It Back (grades 7-12)
- Profile Penalty (grades 7-12)
- Cyberbullying: Broken Promises (grades 9-12)
- Amy's Choice (grades 9-12)
- Terrible Text (grades 9-12)

Audience: Students in grades K through 12 in parish religious education programs and in the diocesan Catholic schools.

Implementation Goal: *Netsmartz* lessons have been used in the diocese for grades 7-12 since the fall of 2008. The program was expanded to include students in grades K-6 in the fall of 2010. *Netsmartz* lessons may be used as an alternative, or in addition to, the *Circles of Care* lessons.

III. Programs for Parents

- A. ***Safe and Sound All Around Parent Guide***
- B. ***Talking to Your Children about Abuse and Resources and Guidelines for Parents***
- C. ***Internet Safety Guide***

Summary: These written materials offer information to parents about how to teach their children to protect themselves against sexual abuse, about the signs and symptoms of abuse, and about how to respond and report to suspected abuse of a child. The Resources and Guidelines document provides parents with additional resources about sexual abuse awareness and prevention. The Internet Safety Guide includes information about online safety resources.

Audience: Parents and other interested people.

Implementation Goal: The materials initially were distributed in parishes and schools throughout the Diocese in 2002 and have been posted on the diocesan website since that time. The Internet Safety Guide initially was distributed at the Safe Environment Conference in 2007 and has been posted on the website since that time. The materials have also been re-distributed in parishes and schools periodically.