



Photographs/videos of children or young people

It is important to ensure that photographs or videos of children and young people are taken for a parish, entity or agency purpose. As part of a consent process, parents or guardians are to be informed about how photographs or video is likely to be used (e.g. website, noticeboard, newsletter) and where they are likely to be published.

When taking photographs or videos, clergy, employees and volunteers are to:

- At all times respect the parent or carer's decision for the child or young person to not participate. There are valid and compelling reasons why permission may not be granted (e.g. child custody, family violence and/or child protection matters may prevent a child or young person from being photographed to preserve their safety).
- Give children and young people an opportunity to consent to participating in the photography or video where appropriate.
- Take photographs and video in the presence of others (i.e. with supervision), not alone or in secret.
- Ensure that children and young people are appropriately dressed and posed.
- Ensure that the content of the photograph or video is not offensive (e.g. sexual, racist, violent, threatening).
- Not store or keep photographs or video for personal use. For example, video of a children's choir is to be downloaded and transferred to the appropriate parish, agency or entity storage device or computer drive as soon as practicable and deleted from personal equipment.

The parish, agency or entity is to:

- Consider the potential of the child or young person to be stigmatised through public association. For example, posting a photograph of a child who is experiencing disadvantage collecting a food parcel may potentially lead to teasing or bullying.
- Limit identity information to prevent the child from being located. For example, consider not adding names to a photograph caption.

See **Code of Conduct declaration: Photography and Video of Children and Young People** for additional information about safeguarding children and young people when taking and publishing photographs and video.