



The Great Seal of  
the State of  
Washington

CHILD PROTECTION  
&  
SAFE ENVIRONMENT

# Safe Environment Training Overview for Teachers



# OUTLINE

- I. Background on Policy Development
- II. ADW Child Protection Policy (CPP)
- III. Personal Safety Education (PSE) Updates



# I. BACKGROUND

- ♦ **School Board Child Abuse and Neglect Policy**
  - ♦ 1993- All schools were required to develop and implement student training at the local level
  - ♦ Designed to promote awareness of the indicators of child abuse and neglect

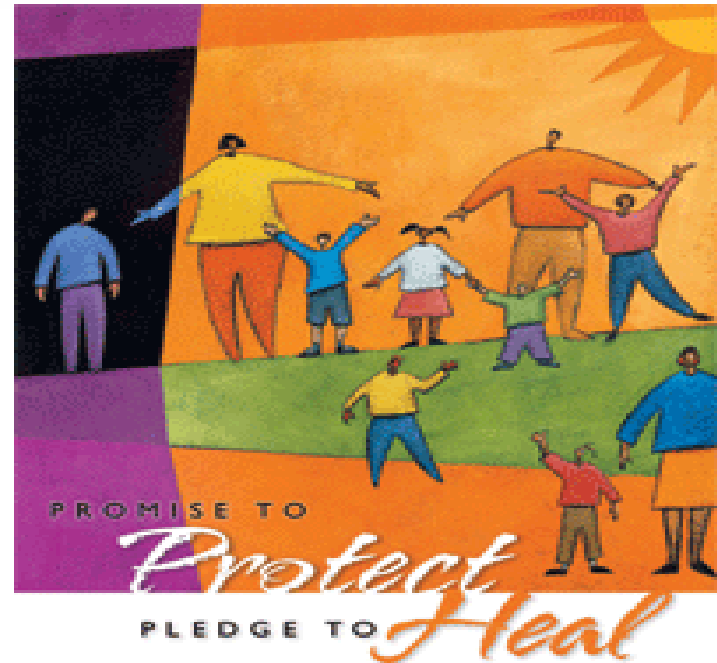


## UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

### *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*

- ♦ Revised in 2005, 2011 and 2018.
- ♦ Article 12: To Protect the Faithful

“Dioceses are to maintain “safe environment” programs which the diocesan bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles. They are to be conducted cooperatively with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for minors, parents, ministers, employees, volunteers, and others about ways to sustain and foster a safe environment for minors. Dioceses are to make clear to clergy and all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons with regard to their contact with minors.”





## ELEMENTS OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ Adult “Code of Conduct”
- ◆ Continued Education/Training
- ◆ Training programs for children and young people should include age-appropriate materials pertaining to personal safety



## II. ADW POLICY

- ◆ Builds on 1986 policy.
- ◆ Adopted in 2003 with oversight by the Child Protection Advisory Board.
- ◆ Updated in 1993, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2013 and July 2019.
- ◆ All children have a right to be safe and protected from harm in any and all environments- home, school religious institutions, neighborhoods and communities.



## POLICY – SECTION #2: EDUCATION

- ♦ Children and young people shall attend scheduled training/classroom sessions
- ♦ Age appropriate abuse prevention education programs are available at both the elementary, middle and secondary level
- ♦ Such program shall be provided annually to children in all grades of every parochial elementary school in the Archdiocese as well as children participating in religious education programs.



## III. PERSONAL SAFETY

- ♦ In 2004, *Child Lures Prevention Program* was mandated for all schools, but today, integrated curriculum is used to teach the Child Protection Policy standards into Religion or Health-based classes.





### **III. PERSONAL SAFETY EDUCATION - 7 KEY STANDARDS**

1. Basic safety skills
2. Recognition of dangerous and abusive situations
3. Appropriate and inappropriate physical contact and other inappropriate boundary violations
4. Ability to say “no” to unwanted situations
5. Ability to identify a trusting adult with whom to speak
6. Importance of disclosure if inappropriate or unwanted actions are directed to self or others
7. Recognition that abusive situations are never the fault of the child
8. Ability to safely interact with technology, including the internet and mobile devices



## AGE-APPROPRIATE EXAMPLE

- ♦ **Standard:** Students will demonstrate ability to recognize and respond appropriately to dangerous and abusive situations.
- ♦ **Sample Benchmarks:**
  - ♦ Quiz
  - ♦ Scenarios/Role Play
  - ♦ Essay



### III. PERSONAL SAFETY EDUCATION

- ◆ Each year the Catholic Schools Office and the Office of Catechesis collaboratively reviewed their existing safe environment programs for children and seek the best programs and curricula that enhance child protection protocols and lessons.
  - ◆ Empowering God's Children is an examples of shared lesson plans that may be used.



## III. PERSONAL SAFETY



- ♦ Pope Francis continually urges families to spend time together and discuss sensitive issues of abuse, love, and forgiveness.
- ♦ Pope Francis describes the Church's mission as "respecting each of God's creatures, which means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children."



# III. PERSONAL SAFETY

- ◆ **Program Objectives for the Updated PSE:**
  1. **To further align the Personal Safety Education curriculum with Catholic Doctrine.**
  2. **To encapsulate materials in Spanish for diverse population served in schools.**
  3. **To incorporate Internet Safety through the addition of an 8th Standard in the PSE.**
  4. **To integrate resources for curriculum mapping of the PSE Standards.**
  5. **To make additional resources financially feasible for implementation.**
  6. **To provide an effective mode of communicating and monitoring PSE.**



## III. PERSONAL SAFETY

- ♦ **Integrated curriculum that meets the Personal Safety Education standards uses lesson plans from**
  - ♦ **Empowering God's Children**
  - ♦ **Teaching Touching Safety**
  - ♦ **Child Lures Prevention Program**
  - ♦ **Circles of Grace**
  - ♦ **Theology of the Body for Middle School Students**
  - ♦ **Creating Safe and Sacred Places for Young Adolescents**



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# ONLINE

- ◆ Teachers access materials through Virtus Website:
  - ◆ Curriculum Standards
  - ◆ Archdiocesan Forms
  - ◆ Sample Lesson Plans
  - ◆ Letter to Parents

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF  
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.

## VIRTUS<sup>®</sup>Online

Home About Us Services / Programs Resources Reporting Child Abuse Contact Information Help / FAQs

**LOGIN FOR EXISTING ACCOUNTS**

User ID:

Password:

[Need login information?](#)

**FIRST-TIME REGISTRANT**

**ESPAÑOL: ACCESO O INSCRIPCIÓN**

**VIRTUS Overview**

**VIRTUS<sup>®</sup> Online Training / Tracking Platform**

*Protecting God's Children<sup>®</sup> for Adults*

*Teaching Safety - Empowering God's Children<sup>™</sup>*

*Protecting All Children<sup>™</sup> for Adults*

*Pathways<sup>™</sup> for Religious Orders*

**Saint Mary MacKillop - Saint Mary of the Cross**

We all have giants in our lives who inspired us and pointed us in the direction to become something greater than we could imagine. These giants walk among us, teach us, parent us, guide and protect us from ourselves, perhaps, or from dangers unknown. What they all inherently possess is the strength of their convictions. [Read More](#)

**What is Your Opinion?**  
Have you ever wished you will become a Saint?

Always

Sometimes I already feel like a Saint for everything I do!

Never

I've never really thought about it

When we commit to God's presence in our lives, it is the

Speaking of Freedom, all children have the right to be



# IMPLEMENTATION: THE NEXT STEPS

1. Log on the Virtus Website and go to the Teacher Tab.
2. Create PSE “Age Appropriate” lessons plans utilizing available resources on *www.Virtus.org*.
3. Document and maintain all lesson plans
4. Submit a signed grade appropriate Standards Grid Sheet to your Principal by December 7.





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