

This flowchart outlines the process for Parishes in conducting risk assessment and mitigation to create safe Parish environments.

The emotional, physical and spiritual safety, well-being and dignity of children is an integral part of the teachings and values of the Catholic Church. Undertaking effective risk assessments and developing mitigation strategies for parish activities involving children and young people are an important safeguarding strategy used to assist in creating child safe parish environments.

It is expected that all activities involving children and young people will be rigorously assessed using effective risk assessment and mitigation strategies by key personnel involved in the activity's development and implementation. Ideally, this process will be undetaken by the Parish/Deanery Safeguarding Officer, with the support and advice of the person/s who will be facilitating the event or activity.

| Step 1 | Identify the activity, then identify the risks: what could happen? how could it happen? |
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| Step 2 | Consequence/s of the risk: what could happen? how could it happen? |
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| Step 3 | •Mitigate the risk: what mitigation strategies are in place to minimise or control the risk? What further mitigation strategies could be put into place? What actions should be taken if an issue does occur during the activity? |
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| Step 4 | Completed Risk Assessment to be signed off by Parish Priest or Parish Safeguarding Officer |
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| Step 5 | •Share and discuss the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies with those involved: the workers including volunteers and parent helpers, and the children and young people involved |
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| Step 6 | •Evaluate the process: did it work, what more can be done to create safe environments? Update the plan if improvements can be made for next time the activity is run. |