

Diocese of Joliet Safe Environment Instruction Scope and Sequence/Standards

Children and youth in schools and Religious Education programs in the Diocese of Joliet shall be taught the following in an age-appropriate manner:

Pre-K - K

- Their body is created by God and is special.
- While touch can be a wonderful way to express caring, sometimes they may not want to be touched, or some touches may make them feel “funny” or uncomfortable.
- They should say “no” and get away if anyone tries to touch them in a way that makes them feel “funny” or uncomfortable.
- They should tell someone if anyone tries to touch them in a way that makes them feel “funny” or uncomfortable.

Grades 1 - 3

- Their body is created by God and is special.
- Their private parts are those covered by their bathing suit.
- No one has the right to touch their private parts except to keep them healthy.
- They should say “no” if anyone tries to touch them in a way that makes them uncomfortable, especially if that touch involves their private body parts.
- It is important not to keep secrets about touching and to tell a safe adult if anyone tries to touch them in an unsafe way.
- It is never their fault if someone touches or tries to touch them.
- Talk about personal safety and tactics for when they are home alone (optional).

Grades 4-5

- Their body is created by God and is special.
- Their private parts are those covered by their bathing suit.
- No one has the right to touch their private parts except to keep them healthy.
- They should be assertive, say what they want and do not want, especially to say “no” and get away if anyone tries to touch them in an improper way.
- It is important not to keep secrets about touching and to tell a safe adult if anyone tries to touch them in an unsafe way.
- It is never their fault if someone touches or tries to touch them.
- Any child who is touched or has such an experience needs healing, help and support from family, community and professionals.
- There will be consequences and help for people who touch children in an improper way.
- Discuss personal safety and tactics for when they are home alone (optional).
- Beginning in grade 5, children may also be instructed about Internet safety (see below).

Grade 6-12

- Young people have dignity and that their body and the bodies of others are to be respected.
- They can recognize and avoid typical tactics of perpetrators of sexual abuse.
- It is important to tell about touching even when it can be hurtful to family members or others.
- It is never their fault if someone touches them or tries to touch them.
- Any minor who is touched or has such an experience needs healing, help and support from family, community and professionals.
- There will be consequences and help for people who sexually abuse minors.
- They should learn to recognize and avoid date rape, date rape drugs, unacceptable social relationships, and to watch out for their younger brothers and sisters. They may also learn to use self-defense and personal safety tactics and use the Internet safely (optional).

Internet Safety - Starting With Grade 5

- The Internet, while potentially a good tool for learning and connecting with people, can be misused by persons who desire an opportunity to sexually abuse young people.
- They should use safe practices while on the Internet – avoid giving *any* personal information...and never *under any circumstances* agree to meet an online contact in person but *communicate with them only* on the Internet (see the diocesan Internet safety brochure for more information).