Catholic Diocese of Auckland

NUTURING OUR PEOPLE THROUGH INTERNET SAFETY

Safeguarding is about protecting people, all people most especially the most vulnerable in our church. How can we achieve this in an environment where technology allows us to be in contact and connected 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

All of us in ministry are required to follow specific guidelines when involved in activities around social media. Below are some important points for us to all consider to keep everyone safe,especially our children.

1 RESPECT

Model responsible and respectful use of the internet. Remembering that young children and youth watch everything adults do.

2 RISK

Recognize that the information posted may be at risk of reaching unintentional audiences. This is an important fact to share with our children and youth.
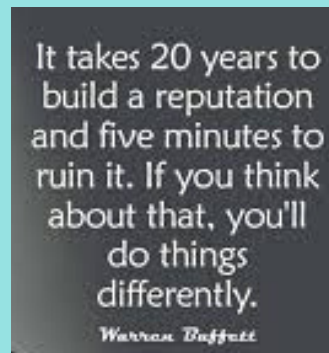
3 REPRESENTATIVE

Understanding that our personal media represents them and its content should be consistent with a person in ministry with children and young adults.

4 RELATIONSHIPS

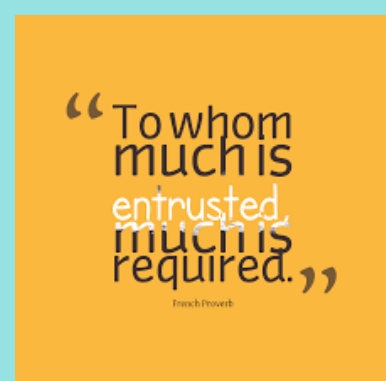Do not have children/ young people from your ministry as 'friends' on their personal pages or sites.

It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently.
Warren Buffett

5 RESPONSES

Consider the comments you make that may lead to embarrassment towards children, young people, parishioners or colleagues.

6 REPUTATION

Do not take any risk knowing that information you share or discuss may bring claims of libel or bring others (including children), the church or entity into disrepute.

7 REFLECT

When considering the risk of social networking sites, ask yourself.
- Who holds the information?
- Who controls the information?
- What will they do with the information?

"To whom much is entrusted, much is required."
French Proverb

8 RESPONSIBILITIES

One of the best ways to help kids navigate online safety challenges is by making an online safety plan together. This ensures you all know what to do if something goes wrong. Remembering that you can block and report any objectionable material.

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