Child and Youth Safety Curriculum Requirements

The Archdiocese is deeply committed to ensuring the safety, dignity, and well-being of all children and young people trusted to our care. Archbishop McKnight has promulgated a letter approving all existing components of the safe environment program administered by the Office for Prevention and Care.

One component of this commitment is mandating the implementation of the **annual, age-appropriate safety curriculum for all students from Kindergarten through Grade 12**. While adults bear the ultimate responsibility for protecting our youth, equipping children with foundational life skills is a critical pillar of abuse prevention. This curriculum empowers youth to recognize healthy boundaries, distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate behavior, and confidently report potentially dangerous situations or individuals to safe adults.

Participation in the safety curriculum is **strictly required*** for all K-12 students enrolled in:

- Archdiocesan parochial schools
- Parish Schools of Religion (PSR)
- Youth ministry programs
- Sacramental preparation programs

Parishes and schools must utilize one of the following two approved educational tracks:

- **VIRTUS® Empowering God's Children** completed by Archdiocesan educators, catechists and parents (in home-based programming).
- **Sunflower House ©P.S. Academy** delivered directly by professional educators from Sunflower House Child Advocacy Center.

Next Steps:

1. **Schedule Lessons:** Ensure the designated sessions are integrated into your academic calendar or program schedule for the year. Lessons to be completed and recorded ***by December 31 of each year.***
2. **Parental Engagement:** Provide parents with companion materials ahead of time to respect their role as primary educators and reinforce safety conversations at home.
3. **Compliance Tracking:** Document student attendance, as implementation records will be verified during the annual USCCB Audit.

Thank you for your vigilant partnership as we work together to maintain a safe, sacred environment where our young people can thrive. For curriculum materials or compliance questions, please contact your local safe environment coordinator (SEC). For other questions contact Sandy Vielhauer at svielhauer@archkck.org.

*Parents can choose to opt-out of the safety curriculum, documentation of which should be kept by the parish/school.