

Outline

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

I. Background & Policy Development

- 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

– Revised in 2005

– 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 children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people.”

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 Child Protection Policy

- Builds on 1986 policy
- Adopted in 2003 with oversight by the Child Protection Advisory Board
- Updated in March 2007 and continues to be updated

• All children have a right to be safe and protected from harm in any and all environments- home, school religious institutions, neighborhoods and communities.

ADW Child Protection Policy: Section #2 - Education

- Children and young people shall attend scheduled training 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 Education

- In 2004, The Catholic Schools Office began with the *Child Lures Prevention Program*, and then moved toward integrating the concepts that are required to be taught by the Child Protection Policy into their standards-based Health and Safety Curriculum.

III. Personal Safety Education

7 Key Standards

- Basic safety skills
- Recognition of dangerous and abusive situations
- Appropriate and inappropriate physical contact and other inappropriate boundary violations
- Ability to say “no” to unwanted situations
- 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

Additional Standard

8. Ability to safely navigate through internet forums

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 Religious Education collaboratively reviewed their existing safe environment programs for children and seek the best programs and curricula that enhance child protection protocols and lessons.

III. Personal Safety Education

- In his homily at Nationals Park, Pope Benedict XVI reflected that “great efforts have already been made...to ensure that children can grow up in a safe environment... these efforts to protect children must continue.”

III. Personal Safety Education

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

III. Personal Safety Education

- *Touching Safety Program* will be the core curriculum with lesson plans from Child Lures Prevention Program, Circles of Grace, Creating Safe and Sacred Places (9-12 grades), Creating Safe and Sacred Places for Young Adolescents (5-8 grades), NetSmartz and CyberSmart available as supplemental resources.

O N L I N E

- Curriculum Standards
- Forms
- Sample Lesson Plans
- Power Point Trainings

Implementation: The Next Steps

- Parents and Guardians Education Night is held at the school.
- Teachers create PSE “Age Appropriate” lessons plans utilizing available resources on *www.Virtus.org* and instruct students.
- Document and maintain all lesson plans
- Principal by reports to the Catholics Schools Office by **December 17, 2010.**

Contact Information

For additional information or questions, please contact:

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