



Child Protection Policy (ADW/Office of Child Protection Services)

Since 1986, the ADW has had a written Child Protection Policy.

It is primarily committed to keeping our children safe and to bring healing to those harmed.

Each ADW school, like St. Columba, follows two critical components for successful compliance yearly:

- 1. Educating Parents and children on the Personal Safety Education curriculum to ensure compliance with the USCCB and ADW Child Protection Policy requirement for all students and parents.**

The Personal Safety Education Workshop and Anti-Bullying Program is in accordance with ADW policy that assures that all children have the right to be safe and protected from harm in any and all environments. There is a yearly mandatory workshop for all parents.

In compliance with the ADW policies, there will be 2 weeks in October and November that St. Columba School will integrate different Personal Safety Education lessons in our curriculum in all grade levels. Materials that are to be used were reviewed and adapted to be relevant, age appropriate and non-threatening. We stressed our call from God to love and relationships with one another and the need to safeguard life, love and liberty. We encourage you to have open communication with your children and reinforce the importance of Personal Safety.

2. Ensuring all school staff, personnel, and volunteers have been fingerprinted in the Archdiocese, have been cleared with a cleared criminal background as a result, and have been enrolled and completed the required Virtus training.
3. As of September 30, 2013, the process to qualify as a volunteer in ADW/Schools has been modified.
 - a. Volunteers have to undergo an electronic background check in lieu of fingerprinting.
 - This will be done in the school office
 - You will be notified by e-mail 4 to 5 business days later if your background check has cleared.
 - b. Volunteers still have to complete a Virtus Seminar within 60 days of their criminal background check to keep their status active.
 - c. Both procedures have to be completed within a year to be valid.
 - d. Complete an ADW Volunteer Application form.
 - e. Submit a copy of your completed Volunteer Application and Policy Acknowledgement Form from Virtus Training.

In 2010, ADW added the Anti-bullying Program.

For complete information and literature, please go to www.adw.org
Child Protection Policy

You can contact the ADW Office of Child Protection Services:

Director: Deacon Matthew Houle
Phone: 301-853-5302
301-853-5332
Fax: 301-853-7675
E-mail: childprotection@adw.org