

DIOCESE OF WORESTER
Office of Religious Education

May 11, 2020

TO: Pastors/Administrators/Catechetical Leaders
FROM: Elizabeth A. Marcil

RE: **Safe Environment Education Reports – DUE MAY 26, 2020**

Enclosed you will find three forms that need to be returned to the Office of Religious Education. On Form 1, please record completed numbers and opt out numbers for the child/youth component. On Form 2, record the number of parents who have seen the 2017 DVD and received the Channing Bete booklet.

The diocesan safe environment curriculum for children and youth addresses the following topics:

- (1) Appropriate behavior based on personal dignity and respect for others
- (2) Personal safety and the necessary skills to remain safe
- (3) Appropriate boundaries
- (4) Assertive responses in potentially dangerous situations
- (5) Identifying trusted adults
- (6) Abusive situations

If you can demonstrate that the local public schools address these topics in the curriculum, the parish need not duplicate this effort in religious education programs. You must also submit Form 3 which is for a summary of your investigation of the local public school curriculum.* Ask parishioners involved in the local school system to identify the person in the system who is responsible for this area of the curriculum. If you can further identify which program(s) are being used in the public schools, this would be most helpful. Even if the local school system is covering this material, many parishes are using the material we have identified as enrichment.

We cannot rely on the local public school system for the parent education component. Parishes must attempt to find ways to integrate the diocesan DVD into parent meetings and distribute the booklet “About Preventing Child Abuse” to all families. This would probably take about 20 minutes of **an already scheduled parent meeting**.

Signed “opt out forms,” using the template which was previously distributed and copied on parish letterhead, must be kept on file at the parish. This form is also available on the website.

**Parishes in the City of Worcester do not need to submit this third form. The Office of Religious Education will verify safe environment education in the Worcester public schools.*

If a parent opts to withdraw his/her child(ren) from classes which cover this material, we have three responsibilities:

- (1) Offer the material to the parent so that the parent might work with his/her child privately
- (2) Keep on file the signed/dated “opt out” forms
- (3) If a parent opts out a child but refuses to sign the form, the catechetical leader must sign and date such a form with the child’s name and the comment that the parent refused to sign.

Safe environment education for parents, children and youth is meant to be integrated into the religious education program and is, therefore, the responsibility of the catechetical leader. The diocesan Office of Religious Education is responsible for supporting you in this area and in preparing all diocesan reports related to education for children, youth and parents.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email us.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Marcil
emarcil@worcesterdiocese.org



**DIOCESE OF WORCESTER
SAFE ENVIRONMENT CURRICULUM
Parish Report**

2019-2020

PARENTS

Parish _____

Parish City _____

Date	Number

Signature/Title

Date

DUE – May 26, 2020

2019-2020 – SAFE ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION REPORT

Form 3

City/Town: _____

Parish: _____

Elementary School District:

Contact:

Comments:

Middle/Junior High School District:

Contact:

Comments:

High School District:

Contact:

Comments:

Signature/Title

Date

DUE – May 26, 2020