

The Parishes of Our Lady and the Saints of Sussex

Confirmation Programme 2023/24

Code of Conduct

The Catechists have designed the Confirmation Programme for the coming year to allow the Candidates to explore their faith, and to understand what it means to be a Catholic in the 21st Century. The Programme will be challenging at times, but the Catechists believe that if Candidates are committed to the programme and put in the effort, then the Candidates will be in the best possible position to benefit from the Programme.

As such, the Catechists want every Candidate, and at least one Parent or Guardian for each Candidate, to read our Code of Conduct for this year, and agree to it before starting the Confirmation Programme.

Expectations for Candidates

1. Candidates are expected to attend all the sessions and undertake to attend Mass each Sunday, we suggest a family mass at the parish church you usually attend. There will be some social events that we would also like full attendance.
2. Candidates should arrive promptly so that the sessions may start on time.
3. Use of mobile phones – this is discouraged. The phones must be “off” or in “silent mode”. They may be used in a break if there is some reason why a parent/guardian needs to be contacted, but not otherwise. We would prefer that the candidate is engaged with the subject in hand. If this request is not observed, unfortunately, we may ask you to hand the phone to a catechist until the end of the session.
4. Candidates should try their best to contribute to any activities or discussions during the session.
5. Candidates will respect each other, the Catechists, and any contributions another person makes to the session. Anything another Candidate tells the group, which is confidential, will remain confidential after the session.

Expectations for Parents and Guardians

1. At least one Parent or Guardian for each Candidate is expected to have attended the session on 16th September 2023.
2. It is a requirement that permission forms are completed and submitted prior to the start of the programme. This is a Safeguarding issue and for the protection of all who attend the course, both the young and the volunteers.

NB. Late applications – there is a national minimum ratio of adults to young in any setting. We aim to keep to them. It is also very difficult to “catch up” with any aspect of the course if it is missed.

3. Parents and Guardians are to ensure that Candidates attend all the sessions.
4. If a Candidate is unable to attend any of the sessions, a Parent or Guardian of the Candidate must contact Father David before the session to explain the reason for the absence. If Father David agrees to the absence, the absence is authorised.

5. If a Candidate is seriously ill, and the Parent or Guardian is unable to contact Father David before the session, the Parent or Guardian must contact him as soon as possible after the session to explain. If Father David accepts the explanation, the absence is authorised.

Disciplinary Procedure

1. If a Candidate has an unauthorised absence from a session, or the Catechists decide that the Candidate is not trying their best to contribute to the sessions, or the Candidate is repeatedly breaking the Expectations, Father David will arrange a face-to-face meeting with the Candidate and at least one Parent or Guardian of the Candidate to discuss the absence or misbehaviour. At the end of the meeting, Father David will decide whether the Candidate may continue the Confirmation Programme for this year.
2. If Father David is unable to arrange a meeting with the Candidate and Parent or Guardian before the next session, the Catechists together will decide if the Candidate may continue the Confirmation Programme for this year, with Father David having the ultimate decision on whether the Candidate should continue with the current Confirmation Programme.

Candidate

I agree to the Expectations for Candidates and the Disciplinary Procedure.

Signed

Name

Date

Parent or Guardian

On my behalf and on behalf of the other Parent or Guardian of the Candidate, I agree to the Expectations for Parents and Guardians and the Disciplinary Procedure.

Signed

Name

Date
