

Supervision of visiting children:

**This section must be read in conjunction with the separate policy
“Protection of Vulnerable Adults and Abuse – Children’s Statement”**

The following additional procedures apply to children who are visiting the home

- Visiting by children unaccompanied by an adult is permitted if the parent/guardian of the child, and the resident, are in agreement with this. Any agreement of this nature will be recorded in the resident’s care documentation.

- Behaviour that is likely to cause danger, disruption or distress to residents, other visitors or staff is not acceptable. Behaviour that is likely to put the child at risk will be acted on promptly. Appropriate steps must be taken by staff to ensure that any behaviour of this nature is not allowed to continue. This may necessitate a request to the parent/guardian of the child to exercise appropriate control, or contacting the parent/guardian if they are not present. In certain cases direct intervention by staff may be necessary. All incidents of this nature must be fully investigated and documented.

- Staff are aware that children visiting the home, particularly those who are unaccompanied, have the potential to be at risk of being abused by residents, other visitors or other staff members. Any staff member who suspects that inappropriate behaviour towards children is taking place must immediately inform the person in charge of the home. All incidents of this nature must be fully investigated and documented. Any allegation of abuse must be reported to the appropriate authority.

- Staff are aware that children may be at greater risk than adults from environmental hazards in Sacred Heart Residence. All reasonable steps will be taken to minimise this risk.

The Congregation currently has no direct role with children and does not have any allegations of abuse.

The Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor has a traditional role in the care of older people. They have no past or present ministry with children in Ireland and the Congregation has no specific child safeguarding policy. The Congregation’s residential establishment for older people sometimes provides work experience placements for transition year students. The sisters adhere to a Vulnerable Adults Policy which includes a “Visiting Policy” which refers to the supervisions of visiting children.

Little Sisters of the Poor have a Volunteer Registration Form along with a Volunteer Role Description Form.

This policy has been sent to your Department in 2016