



## FORM 7

# Code of Behaviour Agreement Form

All MSC Members, staff and volunteers must:

- ◇ Treat all children, young people with respect and dignity;
- ◇ Treat all children, young people equally;
- ◇ Display an example of good conduct at all times;
- ◇ Model positive, appropriate behaviour to all children and young people with whom they come into contact with;
- ◇ Be aware of the *MSC Child Safeguarding Statement* and MSC Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure Handbook, 2023 of the MSC Irish Province;
- ◇ Challenge and report abusive and potentially abusive behaviour;
- ◇ Develop a culture of openness, honesty and safety;
- ◇ Develop a culture where children, young people and vulnerable adults have permission to tell and to talk about concerns or worries that they may have;
- ◇ Respect each child's/young person's boundaries and support them to develop their own understanding and sense of their rights;
- ◇ Be aware of their responsibility for the safety of all children/young people in their care;
- ◇ Work in open environments
- ◇ Help children/young people and vulnerable adults to know what they can do if they have a problem.

**Adults must:**

- ◇ Treat children, young people and vulnerable adults in a manner that fully respects their dignity and rights;
- ◇ Provide an example of good conduct at all times;
- ◇ Respect each child, young person and vulnerable adult's boundaries, avoiding unnecessary physical contact;
- ◇ Develop a culture where children, young people or vulnerable adults are encouraged to talk openly about their contacts with staff and others;
- ◇ Encourage positive behaviour in children/young people;
- ◇ Avoid spending time alone with a child/young person. Should circumstances arise where this is unavoidable, inform another responsible adult and keep a note of what took place and why;
- ◇ Provide children/young people with information on how, and from whom, they can seek help if they have a concern;
- ◇ Encourage positive behaviour in children;
- ◇ Be visible to others if working alone with a child/young person;
- ◇ Challenge and report behaviour that is abusive or potentially abusive;
- ◇ Unless there are at least two adults present, avoid permitting children/young people to work and/or remain on MSC property.

**Adults must never:**

- ◇ Hit or otherwise physically assault or abuse children/young people;
- ◇ Develop sexual relationships with children/young people;

- ◇ Develop relationships with children/young people that could in any way be deemed exploitative or abusive;
- ◇ Act in any way that may be abusive or may place a child/young person at risk of abuse;
- ◇ Use language, make suggestions, or offer advice that is inappropriate, offensive or abusive;
- ◇ Do things for a child/young person of a personal nature that they can do themselves;
- ◇ Condone or participate in behaviour that is illegal, unsafe or abusive;
- ◇ Act in any way that is intended to intimidate shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade;
- ◇ Engage in discriminatory behaviour or language in relation to race, culture, age, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation or political views;
- ◇ Consume alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs while having responsibility for or in the presence of children/young people;
- ◇ Offer alcohol, tobacco or non-prescriptive drugs to minors.

I confirm that I have read and understand the Code of Behaviour, agree to abide by this code and the MSC *Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures*.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_