

Pope John Paul II Award Safeguarding Roles & Guidelines

Role: Diocesan Award Coordinator

Safeguarding Guidelines: If the person has previously completed the vetting process and are still in their role (without a break of 3 months or more) a Vetting Confirmation Request form should be sent to the Diocesan Safeguarding Office as they do not need to be vetted again.

If a new Award Coordinator or new Award Leaders are appointed, they must complete the vetting process and the safeguarding awareness programme.

Role: Award Leader

Safeguarding Guidelines: If the person has previously completed the vetting process and are still in their role (without a break of 3 months or more) a Vetting Confirmation Request form should be sent to the Diocesan Safeguarding Office as they do not need to be vetted again.

Role: Award Participant

Safeguarding Guidelines: All Award participants who have a role in working with children or vulnerable adults must complete the safeguarding awareness programme. In addition, those participants working with children or vulnerable adults who meet the requirements for vetting in their jurisdiction MUST be vetted. Activity leaders must determine which participants need to be vetted.

The following points should be considered:

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland roles that require vetting are those referred to as 'regulated activity' (as defined by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007). An activity is not regulated if the Award participant is being supervised (as defined in the guidance which accompanies the Act Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007, Schedule 2, paragraph 5A). The Award participant should not be left alone to care for younger children or vulnerable adults.

Republic of Ireland

Vetting in Republic of Ireland applies to anyone who is carrying out work or an activity, a necessary and regular part of which consists mainly of the person having access to, or contact with, children or vulnerable persons (The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016). If the contact with children or vulnerable adults is incidental, vetting is not required.

It is possible to access Garda vetting for young people aged 16-18 years of age, however the application must be accompanied with a signed parental consent form, which is available from the Vetting Unit. However, it is best practice to ensure that junior leaders under 18 years of age are supported by an adult(s) and do not have overall supervision responsibility for a group of young people.

Diocesan Safeguarding Office

Each diocese has an appointed Safeguarding officer. The Safeguarding officer will guide and assist those wishing to complete the vetting process and safeguarding awareness programme. A full list of all diocesan safeguarding offices is available on the Pope John Paul II Award website - www.jp2award.com