

The Archdiocese takes its commitment for the safety and welfare of all members of the Lourdes pilgrimage seriously. These notes help you understand the rights that you have as a youth pilgrim and the responsibilities that we all share as members of the youth pilgrimage and the wider Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.

These notes are available as a reference on the Animate Website ([animateyouth.org](http://animateyouth.org) - Lourdes – Pilgrim Commitment)

Youth Pilgrimage policies are also available on the Animate website ([animateyouth.org](http://animateyouth.org) - Lourdes – Policies) or on request

Policies based on CSSA Code of Conduct for Young People and Code of Conduct for Leaders and Helpers as adapted by the Archdiocese of Liverpool and the Archdiocese Youth Pilgrimage.

Everybody associated with the pilgrimage should show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Pilgrims are encouraged to be open and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the group with the Coach Leader or other member of the coach staff team.

But we are also all called upon to be exemplary models of moral behaviour and spiritual faith.

After applying young people will be sent a confirmation letter confirming their place on the pilgrimage. In that letter we will ask for two references. This is not something to concern yourself about – it is just so that coach staff know how best to support you during the pilgrimage.

The expectation is that all youth pilgrims take responsibility for their own behaviour and promote and maintain a supportive, safe and respectful culture.

Please note, we have tried to offer as much guidance here as possible; but this commitment cannot be exhaustive of all events, situations and behaviours on the pilgrimage.

Youth Pilgrims have the right to:

- Be safe and happy on pilgrimage.
- Be respected and treated fairly.
- Take part as an equal to other youth pilgrims and members of the wider pilgrimage.
- Be protected from abuse by other members of the pilgrimage or outside sources.
- Ask for help.
- Be listened to.
- Be believed.
- Have any concerns taken seriously and acted on.
- Be referred to professional help if needed.
- Privacy.

### Code of Conduct for Youth Pilgrims

#### Promote Wellbeing

- Ensure the safety of all pilgrims<sup>1</sup> by working with staff and hospitalite and other youth pilgrims so events, activities, prayer and other elements of the pilgrimage are safely planned and effectively supervised;
- Foster teamwork and co-operation between all pilgrims, promoting trust and mutual respect;
- Discourage and stop rough or dangerous activities, bullying, inappropriate language or other inappropriate behaviour;
- Treat all youth pilgrims<sup>2</sup> and members of the wider pilgrimage fairly and not show favouritism;
- Be positive, approachable and offer praise to promote the objectives of the pilgrimage;
- Listen sensitively and encourage communication between all members of the youth pilgrimage, and between members of the youth pilgrimage and the wider pilgrimage;

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<sup>1</sup> 'Pilgrims' here refers to youth pilgrims on the youth pilgrimage and also assisted pilgrims and wider members of the archdiocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.

<sup>2</sup> 'Youth pilgrims' refers specifically to members of the youth pilgrimage

- Respond to concerns and allegations promptly and appropriately by speaking to a member of your coach staff or, if this is not appropriate, a member of staff on another coach;

#### Promote Autonomy and Dignity

- Ensure the rights and responsibilities of all pilgrims are enforced;
- Promote the full participation and involvement of all youth pilgrims, recognizing and addressing the additional needs of some young people e.g. disability;
- Constructively challenge all discrimination and encourage all pilgrims to not discriminate on the grounds of age, gender, ability, social class, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity;
- Respect, promote and support the right of all pilgrims to make their own choices and decisions, provided this does not threaten the rights, safety, wider pilgrimage rules and structures and legitimate interests of others;
- Respect the right of all pilgrims to personal privacy;
- Respect and listen to the opinions of all pilgrims
- Encourage any pilgrim to point out behaviours or attitudes that they do not like;
- Encourage members of the youth pilgrimage to take responsibility for their own conduct;
- Administer any emergency and necessary first aid in the presence of others and without removing the clothing of a pilgrim (unless necessary);

#### Boundaries and Power

- Establish appropriate boundaries between pastoral care and personal lives in relationships with other members of the youth pilgrimage and members of the wider pilgrimage;
- Not abuse the position of trust for personal benefit e.g. financial gain, sexual gratification;
- Be conscious of explicit and implicit power vested in the role of a helper to the assisted pilgrims;
- Acknowledge the limitations of time, experience, skill and competence – know where and how to ask for support when needed;
- Deal with differences in opinion with respect;
- Work to people's strengths, and never bully, abuse, manipulate or denigrate.

#### Personal Conduct

- Act always in accordance with the core values of the Catholic faith and ensure that behaviour does not bring the church into disrepute;
- Provide an example you wish others to follow;
- Work in a way that is honest, reliable and transparent, never seeking to deceive or manipulate;
- Refrain from using blasphemous, violent, discriminatory, or offensive language and behaviour;
- Abide with youth pilgrimage rules in relation to smoking, vaping, consuming alcohol or using drugs;
- Not engage in any form of sexual relations (including verbal banter, flirtation, using one's gaze to signal attraction, etc.) with inappropriate members of the pilgrimage (children, adults for whom you have a supervisory / supportive role).

### Liverpool Archdiocese Youth Pilgrimage Commitment

#### General

- All pilgrims should uphold the Christian ethos of the pilgrimage.
- Pilgrims should not bring the pilgrimage into disrepute: either through their actions or language. Care should be taken about Social Media and other forms of media/communication.
- All pilgrims should participate fully in the activities of the Youth Pilgrimage, both before and during the time of the pilgrimage.

#### Pre-pilgrimage

- Pilgrims must attend preparation meetings for your coach. If you cannot attend a meeting you should inform the coach leader in advance. Please be aware that missing preparation meetings may result in you not being able to travel to Lourdes.

- Pilgrims should make every effort to attend the two Youth Alive celebrations (Advent and Lent) and the Lourdes Departure and Reunion Masses.
- Pilgrims should abide by the agreed payment schedule (if under 18, parent/guardians are responsible for ensuring that the payment deadlines are met). Please be aware that significantly delayed payments may result in a pilgrim being unable to travel to Lourdes.

#### Journey to and from Lourdes

- Pilgrimage ID to be worn at all times
- Pilgrimage t-shirts (and hoodies and coats) can be worn
- No alcohol to be drunk at any time
- No non/low alcohol to be drunk at any time
- No alcohol to be bought at shops or duty free (without prior permission of the coach leader)
- Smoking / vaping allowed in designated non-restricted areas only. Please be respectful of other members of the pilgrimage and the wider public.

#### In Lourdes

- Pilgrimage ID to be worn at all times (on duty, off duty, day off, free time, evenings)
- Attire should be suitable for a pilgrimage even in free time/nights/day off
- Appearance of the pilgrimage uniform (yellow t-shirts, hoodies, coats, poncho) should not be altered / defaced.
- Pilgrims must stay in their own rooms at night.
- No alcohol (or non/low alcohol) to be bought at shops (unless permission has been granted by the coach leader in advance).
- Alcohol that has been bought with permission for gifts or use at home should not be kept in pilgrim rooms.

#### On Duty in Lourdes

- Pilgrimage ID to be worn at all times
- Pilgrimage uniform to be worn at all times: Yellow t-shirt or hoody or coat
- Pilgrimage uniform should be outer garment (poncho, hoody, coat or t-shirt)
- Sensible shoes / trainers (not flip-flops)
- Shorts/Skirts should be (approaching) knee length or below.
- Leggings can be worn if appropriate
- Staff reserve the right to decide on what is appropriate clothing and footwear and can ask a pilgrim to change.
- Do not accept money from any assisted pilgrim
- Do not take assisted pilgrims to the toilet. Approach a member of staff or member of hospitality.
- No alcohol (or non/low alcohol) drinks
- Smoking / vaping permitted but away from any assisted pilgrims and being aware of other members of the pilgrimage and wider public. Do not leave assisted pilgrims to go for a cigarette / vape.

#### Off Duty in Lourdes

- Pilgrimage ID to be worn at all times
- No alcohol (or non/low alcohol) drinks
- Smoking / vaping permitted but away from any assisted pilgrims and being aware of other members of the pilgrimage and wider public.

#### Nights in Lourdes

- At night coaches can go to a bar or café. Pilgrims must stay with their coach at night and not leave the bar or café unless permission has been granted by the coach leader.
- Alcohol is only to be bought / drunk by those over 18.
- If friends / parishioners / assisted pilgrims etc buy a youth pilgrim an alcoholic drink as a thank you / gift please inform staff members.
- Last orders and leaving the bar time should be respected. On leaving the bar all pilgrims should be quiet and respectful.

*On normal nights:*

- Limit of 2 Demis (half pints)
- Wine can be drunk in place of a Demi. One small glass = one Demi.
- Drinks should be bought one at a time.

*Over 18's nights:*

- Any drink other than shots.
- Spirits should be drunk with mixers.
- Drinks should be bought one at a time.

Declaration

**Safeguarding**

I am committed to protecting and safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse.

I understand that to knowingly give false information or to omit information will be considered as a breach of trust and could result in the cancellation of any agreements made.

I declare that any information I have given in this application is correct.

I understand that if I am subsequently convicted of any criminal offence, I must declare this to the Director of the Youth Pilgrimage.

Where the Liverpool Archdiocese Youth Pilgrimage feels it necessary, failure to meet the obligations of the Youth Pilgrimage Safeguarding Policy and/or Youth Pilgrimage Code of Conduct and/or Youth Pilgrimage Pilgrim Commitment may lead to a young person being placed on the Pilgrimage Disciplinary Pathway (please see [animateyouth.org](http://animateyouth.org) - Lourdes - Disciplinary Pathway).

I also understand that this position may require an enhanced DBS disclosure and those details will be entered on a national Safeguarding confidential database and retained indefinitely.

**GDPR / Data Protection Act 2018**

In accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018, I give my consent for any information contained in this application to be processed and stored. The information provided is being used for the administration of the Youth Pilgrimage. It is considered the legitimate interest of the organisation and is necessary for compliance.

**Use of your information**

Information provide in this application will be held for the pilgrimage year (which ends on the day new application forms go online for the succeeding pilgrimage).

Contact information will be shared with the coach leader for the coach of which you have applied. And may be shared with other parties associated with the Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage and relevant and appropriate diocesan bodies and authorities.

Young people that require DBS certificate may be contacted by the diocesan safeguarding team through the year to ensure the form is complete before travel. This could be during exam time and is unavoidable if forms are to be processed before summer.

Information provided may be used to contact you by email, text, letter or phone.

**Privacy and Data Retention**

For more information on how your data may be used and our retention policy please see <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/privacy>