

Section 3 Prevention

Q. 11. With regards to altar servers, is one child alone with a priest the only association that is forbidden? If there are two children present would that suffice or should there be two adults at all times with children?

A. The rule “avoid spending time alone with a child” refers to being alone with an *individual child*, and this is a requirement not just for priests but for all Church personnel, staff or volunteers in all areas of Church life and activity. If there are two or more children present in a sacristy with the priest, then, the rule is being complied with. (A similar rule applies to teachers in primary schools).

Please refer to Section 3.2.1 of diocesan policy **Safeguarding Children in the Diocese of Cloyne** which gives detailed guidance relating to this matter. Guidance is also in the document **Code of behaviour for Church personnel, staff and volunteers – basics for working with children**, (October 2011), and in the Sample **Parish Safeguarding Children Policy Statement, Guidelines, Roles and Responsibilities** (Dec 2010) which was circulated to all parishes.