



Diocese of Westminster

SAFEGUARDING SERVICE

Supervision and Ratios

It is important to have an appropriate ratio of adult volunteers to children, young people and adults at risk. The factors to consider are:

1. Age and gender of group members;
2. Children with special needs;
3. First aid cover;
4. Nature of the activity;
5. Accommodation arrangements.

There must always be a minimum of two adults linked to every group for all activities or events.

A general guide for minimum supervision ratios provided by the DfE is:

1. One adult leader for every 3 children under 5;
2. One adult leader for every 6 children under 8;
3. One adult leader for every 10-15 children aged 8-11;
4. One adult leader for every 15-20 children aged over 11.

Supervision ratios for adults at risk should be based on the assessment of need. For example if an adult at risk is infirm or wheelchair bound, the ratio should be a minimum of one to one.

When children, young people or adults at risk are identified within the risk assessment as having additional needs that are likely to require additional supervision, specialist care or support, this must be discussed with the person's parent or carer. Where appropriate the views of the young person or adults at risk should also be sought.

Following the discussions the group leader will give consideration to increasing the levels of supervision so as to meet the assessed needs.

During the activity and depending on the overall size of the group participating, it should be considered as good practice for the main group to split into smaller sections so as to facilitate better group supervision. These sub groups should always remain in close proximity to each other, so as to permit adult leaders being able to support each other while safeguarding the interests of all.

Young people under eighteen are welcome and encouraged to assist with outings or activities; their involvement must be monitored so that they do not have the responsibility of a group leader or are used to meet the supervision criteria above.