

1 Catholic Ethos Policy

“You are the light of the world. A city seated on a mountain cannot be hid.” Matthew 5:14

Knockadoon Camp is run by the Irish province of the Order of Friars Preachers (Dominicans). Like every apostolate of the Order it has part of its purpose the preaching of the Catholic Faith. It seeks to be a community that shines forth the light of Christ to the world. It goes without saying that any youth camp run by the Order would strongly maintain a Catholic ethos in all that pertains to the daily life and activity of the camp.

Knockadoon camp is part of the Catholic Church. The camp is to be conducted as a Catholic camp in accordance with the canon law and teachings of the Catholic Church, in accordance with the constitutions and policies of the Irish province of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), and in particular:

- Religious education is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church;
- Religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church;
- And at all times the camp is to serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Since the Knockadoon Youth Week (KYW) is run on behalf of the Dominicans, it is the responsibility of the director of the camp to ensure that the Catholic ethos of the camp is maintained in all things pertaining to the organisation and running of the KYW. The KYW is not just a holiday with lots of games and activities. It is a week in which the Catholic Faith is taught and lived out with love and respect, where each person is nurtured and cared for so that they may encounter Christ and thus grow as human beings.

All leaders on the week have a special role and responsibility in relation to maintaining the Catholic ethos of the camp and the KYW. Since an ethos is something that is lived, this cannot happen without the co-operation of all the leaders involved. Leaders are more than just functionaries or people with particular jobs and tasks to do. In choosing them, the camp is putting them forward as role models to the young people, as examples to be followed. As the young people come to know them and relationships of trust develop, they will, in many cases, look to them for advice, encouragement and, frequently, as people to be imitated.

Therefore this is a very special and important role. This responsibility is not just something that lasts for the duration of the week itself. It is the person, in all of who they are, that is chosen as a leader and role model in this Catholic apostolate. In a very real sense the camp is setting each leader before young people as a light to be followed. Therefore it seems reasonable to expect that each leader will maintain, by word and actions, a position of role model and witness to the Gospel of Christ that is in conformity with the teachings, standards, doctrines, laws, and norms of the Catholic Church. The camp has a responsibility to choose leaders who can carry out this responsibility with maturity, sensitivity and care for

those young people with whom they will come into contact through the organisation and running of the KYW.

1.1 Dealing with Situations arising from our Ethos

Each situation shall be dealt with using a case by case approach. Every situation will be fully investigated by the Camp director and the Senior Leader (and/or the KYW committee) separately.

If the camp director or senior leader proposes the removal of a leader who is in breach of the Catholic Ethos Policy, a discussion meeting will be arranged with the relevant parties. The party involved has the right to appeal the decision. However, the decision of the camp director will be final.

Should an appeal be requested, the accused party will be suspended from their responsibilities until their appeal can be heard.

If the situation occurred as a result of malicious intent (and proven as such), by a party directly involved or by a third party, they shall themselves be subject to a disciplinary action.