



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER**

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**Safe Environment Education Programs Provided to Children Policy**  
All Parishes and Diocese of Rochester Catholic Schools

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Issued by: The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano

Date Issued: March 3, 2025

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**KEY POLICY STATEMENTS:**

In accordance with Article 9 and Article 12 of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* promulgated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 2002 and revised in 2018, the following Safe Environment programs are provided to children in the Diocese of Rochester:

- The *Circles of Care* curriculum for children is used in the Diocese of Rochester's Catholic Schools.
- The *Creating a Safe Environment: Sexual Abuse Awareness Educational Resource Material for Parish Catechetical Programs* is used for children in parish religious education programs.

**APPLIES TO: All Diocese of Rochester Catholic Schools and all Diocese of Rochester parish religious education programs.**

**DETAILS:**

- The *Circles of Care* curriculum for children is incorporated into the regular school curriculum, rooted in our Catholic faith.
- The *Creating a Safe Environment: Sexual Abuse Awareness Educational Resource Material for Parish Catechetical Programs* is used for children in parish religious education programs, offering a minimum of three (3) hours of Sexual Abuse Awareness education on an annual basis at each age/grade level.