Empowering God's Children Youth Safe Environment Program

Information Sheet & Opt-Out Option

October 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In an effort to assist in the monumental mission of protecting children from abuse, we will present a safe environment lesson to children in our catholic schools and parish religious programs. It is our cherished role as adults to fully protect children. In addition, we must also teach children about their safety rights and boundaries, so that they have tools to protect themselves.

This school year, your child(ren) will be presented with a program entitled *Empowering God's Children*, in which Lesson Leaders present a safety lesson to children that houses a grade-appropriate video component along with a hands-on activity. The material is designed to better equip children to know their rights, recognize their boundaries, and empower them to protect themselves when safe adults are not immediately available—and ultimately be safer from people who might want to harm them. Children will participate in the following lesson this year:

Lesson 4: *Secrets, Surprises and Promises*

As parents and guardians are the primary educators of their children, you are encouraged to review these materials ahead of time and discuss the information at home. If you have ever thought about how to empower children to protect themselves, fortify their boundaries or increase their safety through in-person and online situations, then reviewing the lessons on your own to both begin *and* reiterate the message at home is the best next step to take. Thank you for your partnership with us to protect children in our diocese.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Date(s) of Safe Environment Lesson: **Determined by the teacher during November 2025**

Makeup Safe Environment dates: **Determined by the teacher during November 2025**

For questions, or to obtain access to the specific lesson and related activities, please contact:
Miss Melissa Preston, Principal at principal@sjy.org

Please note: You also have the prerogative to "opt" your child(ren) out of the formal in-program safety lesson if you only plan to provide safe environment education at home. Please complete, detach and submit the form below (one form per child) if you do not want your child to receive safe environment information at school or in the parish religious education program. You will be contacted regarding relevant protocol, i.e., child separation from others during lesson, alternative activities, etc.

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TO OPT-OUT YOUR CHILD FROM THE SAFETY LESSON, RETURN THIS PORTION TO:

Miss Melissa Preston BY November 7, 2025

Important: Please submit a form for each child you are opting out

I, *(printed name of parent or guardian)* _____, have reviewed the safety lesson and DO NOT give my permission for my child (print full name of child) _____ _____ in grade _____ to attend the *Empowering God's Children* Safety Lesson.

Please check one below

_____ I **would like** to receive the parent-instructed lesson plan

_____ I **do not wish** to receive the parent-instructed lesson plan

Parent Signature _____ Date _____