

Factsheet ORG09

Working with Children Check

Religious sector

Below is a list of **categories** of [child-related work](#) that may apply to the religious sector, where a person has a role that involves, or is likely to involve, **contact** with **children** as part of their **usual duties**. The term “religious sector” applies to all religious organisations and faith communities.

This table is a guide only and not intended to be exhaustive. It does not include all circumstances or variations and the examples provided may also be subject to [exemptions](#).

Categories may include:	Roles may include:
 <p>3. An educational institution for children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> school based faith leaders.
 <p>8. A detention centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> faith leaders at Banksia Hill Youth Detention Centre.
 <p>11. A religious organisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> religious and faith leaders including Ministers of religion, Rabbis, Priests, Acolytes, and Imams Special Ministers/Extraordinary Ministers people providing religious instruction to children such as Sunday school, youth group and religious story telling.
 <p>13. A ward of a private or public hospital</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> faith leaders based on children’s wards or wards where children are ordinarily present.
 <p>15. An overnight camp</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> people working at an overnight camp for children even if they do not stay overnight themselves

I sing in the choir at my place of worship and there are also children in the choir, do I need a Working with Children (WWC) Check?

No. As you are participating in the choir you are not undertaking child-related work and a WWC Check is not required.

I give communion during mass at my church, would the contact I have with children be considered incidental?

No. The contact you have with children is essential to the role and, as the role is covered by category 11, a WWC Check is required.

If I volunteer to teach Sunday school or Little Pillars group but my child does not participate in the lessons, do I still get the parent volunteer exemption?

No. To access the **parent volunteer** exemption under category 11 your child needs to be participating in the same activity with you. If they are not you will need to apply for a WWC Check. Refer to [Factsheet CRW03 – Exemptions, the parent volunteer exemption](#) for further information.

My faith community runs an annual youth camp. My daughter will be attending this year and I am volunteering to supervise, can I use the parent volunteer exemption?

No. Overnight camps have their own category of child-related work: category 15, and due to the high-risk nature of overnight activities, there is no parent volunteer exemption. This means you require a WWC Check.

I volunteer for my faith community's charitable branch and may have contact with children. Do I need a WWC Check?

No. Category 11 does not extend to foodbanks, second-hand clothing stores / op shops and clothing drives, and there is no other applicable category of child-related work.

Definitions of **bold** terms can be found in the Working with Children Check glossary at www.workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au