



MARIST BROTHERS OF THE SCHOOLS

SECRETARIAT OF EDUCATION AND EVANGELISATION

**Guide for the survey of Marist
CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS
on their rights to play an active role**

PROJECT

Stand up, Speak up & Act

**Guide on rights of Marist children and young people
to play an active role**

CONSULTATION OF MARIST CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS ON THEIR RIGHTS TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE

This consultation is part of a methodological strategy proposed by the Secretariat of Education and Evangelization of the Marist Institute, **to know the opinions of girls, boys, adolescents and young adults about guidelines for how they might play a more active role and even take the lead, from the perspective of the Marist charism.** Such a Guide will outline key ideas and guidelines intended to encourage a participative environment in schools, community and social centers, hostels, programs and any activity where Marists work with children, adolescents and young adults.

Therefore, the aim of this survey is **to know the opinion of Marist girls, boys, adolescents and young adults on the exercise of their rights to play an active role in the various educational and evangelizing works.** It seeks to identify what meaning is given to 'an active role', as well as the achievements to be consolidated and the obstacles to be overcome in order to make progress in the guarantee of this right.

This survey covers important aspects to be considered in talking about 'participation', offers some thoughts and questions and finally, presents some ideas and a structure for organising the information collected.

It is worth noting that simultaneously the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization has produced a "draft" guide on the rights of children and youth to play an active role in the Marist Institute. You will find this draft guide in the material that has been sent to you. Feel free to use its content for some of the moments of consultation with children and/or young people. This text, as said, above is the one that will be enriched based on the contributions of this survey and also of educators and adults, who will reflect on this topic more deeply.

Below are the details of the survey with Marist girls, boys, adolescents and young adults on their rights to play an active role:

- 1. What are some important things to consider to make this a truly participative process?**
 - We suggest that **the participation of all age groups present in the Marist works** of your Province/District be encouraged by organising consultation groups: a) girls and boys (6 to 12 years); b) adolescents (13 to 17 years) and c) young Marists (18 years and older).

- To best reflect the diversity of Marist works and presences in the different Provinces and Districts, we suggest that you **select a variety of places** based on: type of ministry (school/social centre/hostels/boarding schools / programs / other), socio-economic level of the recipients, geographical location (urban/rural), different countries (if applies), cultural and religious characteristics, etc.
- We really want to cover all types of Marist ministry. So, we ask you **to conduct the number of consultations that will reflect the diversity of your context**. Thank you for your generosity.
- For each age group, the Guide **questions suggested in this document should be selected and adapted**, both in their language and in the means used for them to express their opinion.
- It would be desirable **for the teacher or counsellor carrying out this participatory exercise to have prior knowledge of child rights**, specifically their rights regarding active participation, as well as experience in working with children and youth.
- Various techniques can be used to carry out the consultation, such as written surveys, drawings, dialogue in focus groups, sociodramas, interviews, among others. We suggest that you **employ such techniques in a playful atmosphere that makes the setting attractive and interesting** an so easier for children, adolescents and young people to express their points of view.
- **Special care is suggested to include the participation of children, adolescents and young people with disabilities**, anticipating suitable adjustments to guarantee that they can express their opinions and that they are duly taken into consideration.
- **The final result of this consultation is to be sent in the formats presented below** through the "link" person of each of the provinces/districts of the Institute or to the email address mission@fms.it

2. What is the proposed content of the consultation

It is proposed that the content of the consultation be an exercise of the right of Marist girls, boys, adolescents and young people, to play an active role. This means in the main:

- a) Providing information on all matters that affect them.
- b) The possibility of expressing their opinion through various means.
- c) The adult generation listening to these opinions.
- d) The impact of these opinions on decision making in the various Marist ministries.

The above are the categories for ordering the responses, ideas and opinions on what Marist girls, boys, adolescents and young people perceive about playing a role in schools and other ministries.

3. What type of questions might be asked in conducting the consultation?

Given the diversity of Marist ministries, as well as the cultural differences of the children and young people taking part, we have prepared a set of questions **that can be adapted to each context**. Taken as a whole, these questions cover the main ideas of the right to play an active role:

1. What does it mean for me to participate and to be heard?
2. Do we have spaces to express our opinions about what affects us in the community?
3. Why are our opinions important? Are the opinions of adults more important?
4. Can we organize places for expressing our opinions ourselves? Do teachers have to be present?
5. Are the educators in my community interested in our opinions? Do they consider them important?
6. On what situations in our community can we express an opinion ? Rules about conduct? Classes? Uniforms? The timetable? Homework? Recreation? The grounds?
7. On what topics do they never consult us?
8. Do they provide us with information so that we can express our opinion?
9. Do educators listen to us and take our opinions into account? What is their attitude when we are expressing our opinion?
10. If we could change something in our educational community so that everyone is better, where would we start? Why?
11. Is there a place where we can express our disagreement when our opinions are not taken into account?
12. Where can we complain when there is some situation of mistreatment in our community? Are our complaints listened to?
13. In our community, are there groups of young people who have more difficulty expressing their opinions and having them taken into account?
14. Does our community give us information about our rights?
15. What do we propose so that we can express our opinions more forcefully and that these are taken into account?

4. How is the information from the consultation to be set out?

It is suggested that the basic questions raised in the previous section be 'translated' by the local Marist leaders of the Project "Stand Up, Speak up &Act" into at least two types of methodology for each of the age groups indicated above: qualitative and quantitative.

a) Qualitative techniques: e.g. drawings, in-depth interviews, focus groups, sociodramas.

These techniques need an audiovisual record, so it is recommended to take photos, videos and audiotape of the interviews and focus groups.

Subsequently, the information should be interpreted by the educator, summarizing the most recurrent and relevant ideas of the participatory exercise, based on the child rights approach.

b) Quantitative techniques: e.g. questionnaires and surveys using different scales, i.e. where the answers are multiple choice (always, often, rarely, never), checklists, etc.

These techniques will make it easier to record the views of participating young people on a wider scale. You will have to state some statistical criteria for the sampling to be valid such as percentages of the whole body of young people in the Marist ministry being surveyed. The results can be presented in graphs using categories from Child Rights.

5. How is the resulting information to be organized and sent?

Please complete the following information template. A separate template for each of the age groups and categories you have worked with. It may be easier to complete this template after the workshops/activities of the consultation rather than using it as a guide during the workshops/activities.

ABOUT THE GROUP:

Date of consultation:	
Name(s) of facilitator(s):	
Name of school/center/ Marist presence:	
City and Country:	
Duration of consultation (hours and minutes):	
Number of participants (children, adolescents and/or youth):	
Age groups of participants (children, adolescents and/or youth):	
Tell us about the participants (please do not use NAMES for this description): - how they were selected. - their socio-economic-cultural profile. - any other important comment.	
If someone else was present during the consultation work (teacher, adult, parent, youth leader, teaching assistant) and why this was necessary(s).	

ABOUT THE CONSULTATION:

a) The provision of information on all matters that affect them.	What questions/activities were used to address this aspect.	Please summarize the key issues expressed by the children/young people. Report any interest, differences of opinion, and provide illustrative quotes of the exact words of the young people (where possible, mentioning their sex and age).
b) The possibility of expressing their opinions through various means.	What questions/activities were used to address this aspect.	Please summarize the key aspects expressed by the young people. Report any interest, differences of opinion, and provide illustrative quotes of the exact words of the young people (where possible, mentioning their sex and age).

c) Adults listening to this opinion.	What questions/activities were used to address this aspect.	Please summarize the key aspects expressed by the young people. Report any interest, differences of opinion, and provide illustrative quotes of the exact words of the young people (where possible, mentioning their sex and age).
d) The impact that these opinions have on decision-making in the various Marist ministries.	What questions/activities were used to address this aspect.	Please summarize the key aspects expressed by the young people. Report any interest, differences of opinion, and provide illustrative quotes of the exact words of the young people (where possible, mentioning their sex and age).
e) Other aspects that you wish to note or comment on:		

- f) Description of included items (drawings, extended interviews, focus groups, socio-dramas, audiovisual tapes, surveys etc.)

6. Any questions or suggestions?

Please contact the 'link' of your Province/ District, or Br. Carlos Alberto Rojas in the Institute Secretariat of Education and Evangelisation (mission@fms.it).