



Saint Joseph's Centre for the Deaf

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CONSTITUTION

SAINT JOSEPH'S CENTRE FOR THE DEAF

GROSVENOR ROAD

BELFAST

Mission Statement

Saint Joseph's Centre for the Deaf has been provided by the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul in co-operation with Saint Joseph's Association for the Deaf (*"The Association"*) and with the help of Saint Joseph's Centre for the Deaf Promoters' Committee (*"The Promoters' Committee"*).

1. **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

1.1. The aims and objects of the Centre are –

- a) To provide leisure and recreation facilities for Deaf people and to enable Deaf people to meet with others outside their own accustomed groups.
- b) To provide training and further education programmes for the Deaf to enable them to develop their talents and qualities.
- c) To provide for the spiritual welfare of the Deaf, interalia, with religious services and catechetical programmes.
- d) To encourage and provide sporting activities for the Deaf, particularly young Deaf people.
- e) To offer support of counselling and advice services.
- f) To provide an interpreting service.
- g) To provide a meeting place and facilities for those with impaired hearing, in particular, the hard of hearing groups.
- h) To complement the services provided for the Deaf and hard of hearing by statutory and voluntary agencies, to co-operate in the provision of those services and to promote and assist in the extension of those services.
- i) To encourage the involvement of the families and relatives of the Deaf and hard of hearing in the activities of the Centre and to help them to cope with their problems.
- j) To display and demonstrate the use of equipment designed for the Deaf and hard of hearing.
- k) To provide any other programmes or facilities deemed to be necessary.

2. MEMBERSHIP:

The Centre will serve:-

- a) Deaf people from any part of Northern Ireland *(at least until similar facilities are available elsewhere in the province)*
- b) The hard of hearing in the Belfast area.

The Centre shall be essentially Catholic in character, but will be open to people of all creeds.

3. ADMINISTRATION

3.1. The Centre shall be managed by a Committee *(hereinafter called "The Management Committee")*.

3.2. The Management Committee shall consist of –

- a) Two persons appointed by the Association.
- b) Two persons appointed by the Promoters' Committee. But when the Friends of the Deaf have been established that group will have the future power of appointment.
- c) The Spiritual Director(s) of the Centre *(or until one is appointed, The Spiritual Director(s) of the Association)*.
- d) Two persons appointed by the Northern Ireland Regional Council of the Society *("The Regional Council")*.

3.3. Each member of the Management Committee shall be appointed for a term of two years and may be re-appointed for further terms.

3.4. The Management Committee shall have power to co-opt up to two additional members.

- 3.5. When a person, for any reason, ceases to be a member of the Management Committee before the end of his or her term, the group, which appointed him or her, shall appoint another person in his or her place for the remainder of the term.
- 3.6. The Management Committee shall appoint for the term of two years a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer and such other officers as it deems necessary.
- 3.7. At meetings every member shall have one vote and in case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Four members shall form a quorum.
- 3.8. The Management Committee shall have power to do all things necessary for the accomplishment of the aims and objects of the Centre, including power to purchase, hold, sell, mortgage, rent, lease or sub-lease property and to erect, demolish, repair, alter or otherwise deal with the building as well as the power to borrow money.
- 3.9. The Management Committee shall appoint such staff, full time or part time, as it deems to be necessary, but shall ensure that for reasons of security there shall be a member of staff residing on the premises.
- 3.10. The Management Committee shall negotiate with Government, public authorities and voluntary agencies for financial help to meet the cost of the running of the Centre.
- 3.11. The Management Committee shall liaise Government, public authorities and voluntary agencies to ensure that the Centre can effectively assist Deaf and hard of hearing people to overcome their disability and play a useful role in the community.
- 3.12. The Management Committee shall publicise to the hearing world the special problems created by the handicap of deafness.
- 3.13. The Management Committee shall promote the establishment of Friends of the Deaf to take over the work

of the Promoters' Committee in helping to raise funds for the Centre, to publicise the needs and problems of the Deaf and to promote the work of the Centre.

- 3.14. All monies received by the Management Committee shall be paid into a Bank Account in the name of the Management Committee. Cheques drawn on this account shall be signed by two members of the Management Committee authorised by the Management Committee.
- 3.15. The Management Committee shall hold its Annual General Meeting not later than March in each year.
- 3.16. The Management Committee shall prepare an Annual Report and Annual Accounts, copies of which will be sent to the Association, The Promoters' Committee (*or the Friends of the Deaf*) and the Regional Council.
- 3.17. The book of account shall be audited annually by a professionally qualified accountant.
- 3.18. Four members of the Management Committee shall have power to requisition in writing a Special General Meeting to deal with any competent business of the Centre and to deal with any motion presented to the meeting. Notice shall be given by the Secretary to all members of the Management Committee at least seven days before the proposed meeting and after receipt of the requisition in writing signed by at least four members.
- 3.19. The Management Committee shall keep the premises in good repair, take proper precautions against fire and vandalism and comply with the provisions of the Health & Safety At Work (Northern Ireland Order) and the requirements of the Northern Ireland Fire Authority.
- 3.20. The Management Committee shall ensure that there is adequate insurance cover with such insurance company as may be approved by the Regional Council to provide indemnity against loss by fire, explosion, theft etc., affecting the building and its contents, as well as against liability to

employees, volunteers, persons using the Centre and members of the public.

3.21. The Management Committee shall have power to delegate –

a) the conduct of such activities in the Centre as it deems fit to a Sub-Committee or Sub-Committees comprised of persons using the Centre or with a concern for Deaf people, whether or not they are members of the Association, the Promoters' Committee (*or the Friends of the Deaf*) or Society of St. Vincent De Paul

and

b) the conduct of such of its affairs as it deems fit to a Sub-Committee or Sub-Committees comprised of such persons, whether or not members of the Management Committee, as it deems proper.

4.22 Should any of the other nominating bodies cease or cease to be involved in the Centre, its powers of nomination of members to the Management Committee shall be vested in the Regional Council.

4. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

5.1. This Constitution may be amended by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Management Committee present at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General meeting of the Management Committee, provided that such an amendment is approved by the Regional Council. Seven days notice of such resolution shall be given to all members of the Management Committee.

By

Very Rev. Patrick Deulin

(Position) - Director