



## PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR & DISCIPLINE IN CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES (2020)

This policy is written for children and youth aged 3-18 years in our various Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry groups to help promote:

- Respectful relationships;
- A safe and positive environment; and
- To help the children/youth make good behaviour choices.

### ENCOURAGING APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

Preventative measures and clear expectations, together with acknowledging and reinforcing good behaviour, are essential when encouraging appropriate behaviour in our Children's and Youth Ministry Groups.

We promote five general group rules to help the children/youth behave appropriately:

1. Listen to your leaders
2. Speak kind words
3. Keep hands and feet to yourself
4. Be safe and sensible
5. Respect others

### DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

The steps we take in handling inappropriate behaviour is respectful of the child/youth and has the best interests of all the children/youth in mind.

When there is a need to discipline against one or more of the above general rules we will issue the following consequences (**after an initial verbal warning**):

Warning	For children (3-12 years old)	For youth (13-18 years old)
First	Move child away from friends and sit next to a leader.	A leader to have a discussion with the youth about their behaviour.
Second	Children up until 10yrs moved into a 'Time Out' area within classroom (a minute per year of age). Older children will instead have a discussion with a leader about their behaviour.	A leader discusses the youth's behaviour with the parent(s) at the end of the session.
Third	A leader to take the child to speak with parent(s) at the end of the session to discuss behaviour.	

### PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

All of our leaders will only use physical restraint to protect children from harm or to avoid an accident. When physical restraint is used, a record is kept in our church office that identifies the restraint used, the leader and child involved, any witnesses, and the incident's circumstances. The child's parents or guardians will also be informed of the incident and its circumstances.