

10. Parents and their children

This section 10 may be separately distributed to all parents/guardians.

All parents who participate regularly in the life of the church with their children shall be informed of the existence of this policy, which shall be available on request. Any parent whose child attends church-arranged activities may also be given a copy of the policy on request. The attention of parents who are regular participants is drawn to the following:

- Except for the duration of formal church arranged children's activities, children are the responsibility of their carers or parents.
- Parental discipline of their own children in public should be appropriate and due regard to the effect on others.
- We wish to maintain an environment of trust and openness where all children and young people are safe from harm. We welcome the sharing of concerns where these are apparent to a parent. Any concern may be shared with the co-ordinator or with a member of the leadership team.
- While in no way wishing to engender a climate of suspicion, we would advise parents only to entrust their children to the care of others in whom they have good reason to be confident. It should not be assumed simply because a person has made a profession of Christian faith that the person can be trusted with children.
- It is recognised that some children, especially those with lone parents, may well need the company and support of an adult member of the opposite sex as a role model and father or mother figure. Lone parents especially should take care not to entrust their child with another adult without giving it some thought first. Some wise steps to take might be:
 - To check with a member of the leadership team or another mature Christian for a second opinion.
 - To double check that the child is happy with the arrangement.
 - To entrust the child only with someone you have known for some time and you feel comfortable about.
 - For the adult to do activities together with other children in the context of joint outings, for example.
 - We would counsel parents to be cautious about baby-sitting arrangements where a person regularly offers to baby-sit alone in a home with young children.
 - Parents should be advised that normal caution should not be removed just because this is a church.
- Parents should talk with their children about social networking sites. It is strongly recommended that parents request their children not to add anyone to any of their Social Media or Messaging accounts etc without informing them.