



Guidelines Surrounding Group Behaviour

Scripture teaches that **all** people are special because they are made in the image of God. This is, therefore, true for children and young people, who should be respected and protected. Within the Kingdom of God, children matter in their own right and are to be taken seriously. The Church is required by God to foster relationships of the utmost integrity, truthfulness and trustworthiness. Those who work for the Church, in a paid or voluntary capacity, need to exercise the greatest care when working with those for whom they have been given responsibility.

When working with groups, adults will:

- **be well prepared**
- **praise the children as much as possible**

Help children develop and maintain a positive attitude. Be specific about the good behaviour being praised:

- **provide a good role model**
- **be honest in answering questions**
- **build positive relationships**

Get to know each child as an individual.

- **involve the children in 'doing' as much as possible**

A busy and interested child is less likely to cause problems.

- **be aware**

Try to notice and avoid situations before they start.

- **be calm and stay objective**

Decide what is acceptable and what is not. Lay ground rules from the start and keep to them.

- **be fair, but firm**

Have an element of choice if children refuse to join in.

- **be prepared to listen**

We expect children to:

- **show respect for themselves, for other children, for adults and for God**
- **speak and act with kindness, avoiding hurting others with words or actions**
- **be honest and truthful**
- **listen when adults are speaking and follow instructions immediately**
- **listen when other children are speaking**
- **respect the property of others**