

Guidance on Creating a Code of Behaviour with Children and Young People



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This guidance outlines the approach for developing a Code of Behaviour with children and young people participating in Church-related activities. It ensures that children and young people are actively involved in shaping the standards of conduct within their groups, promoting respect, safety, and inclusion. This guidance applies to all Church personnel, volunteers, and children involved in Church activities where children are present.

Principles

- Children are central to the process and should be empowered to contribute meaningfully.
- Adults facilitate the process using age-appropriate methods.
- The code should promote positive behaviours and outline clear consequences for breaches.

Responsibilities

- Group leaders should facilitate a review of the codes regularly, this should be done at least annually.
- Children should be encouraged to participate in discussions and uphold the agreed code.
- Parents/carers should be informed and encouraged to support the code at home.

Example Workshop on Creating a Code of Behaviour with Children

1. Preparation

- Select appropriate materials (flip chart, pens, soft ball, Blu-Tack).

- Ensure the adult facilitator has relevant skills in child engagement.

2. Workshop Facilitation (Ages 6–10)

- Children sit in a circle and use a soft ball to manage turn-taking.
- Discuss group values and behaviours that promote teamwork and respect.
- Collaboratively choose a group name and write it on the chart.
- Develop rules together, covering:
 - Respect for people and property
 - Punctuality and attendance
 - Safeguarding and confidentiality
 - Consequences for breaking rules
 - All participants sign the code and display it during group sessions.

3. Very Young Children

- Use simple language and visual aids.
- Discuss basic principles: listening, kindness, sharing, and safety.
- Children sign or use handprints.
- Send a copy home to parents/carers.
- Repeat the activity annually.

Review and Monitoring

- The code should be reviewed at the start of each year.
- Group leaders must ensure adherence and address breaches appropriately.
- Feedback from children should be encouraged and incorporated.

USEFUL RESOURCES

- [Safeguarding Policy Poster](#)