

Statement of Expectations & Behavior Policy for Children & Youth

Policy:

Children and youth will exhibit behavior that is age appropriate, respectful, tolerant of others, and in no manner harmful to other youth, teachers, leaders or persons present.

Purpose:

Our desire is to create a loving and safe environment within which the families of our church and community may grow in love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Listed below are general guidelines that we hope will create such an environment. There may be other options identified in some situation. The overriding principle in managing any behavioral challenge is the protection of others from harm, intimidation, stress, or a feeling of fear over encountering another child at an activity, event or bus ride. Chronic behavior that causes others to avoid the activity or to leave the church will not be tolerated.

Practice:

- The Behavior Expectations will be shared annually with members of this congregation, and as appropriate, for other guest youth and parents. Students are required to abide by these expectations and parents are expected to enforce them and support others in leadership positions involving their children.
- Youth who exhibit inappropriate behaviors shall be corrected by their adult leader at the time of the incident. The expectation is that this correction will result in positive behavior change.
- Youth who are resistant to correction will be reported to the activity chairperson. Parents will be advised by that chairperson and asked to work toward a behavioral change with their child. The chairperson will also advise Pastoral staff and Leadership Team of issue and action taken.
- In the case of a child who, after parental involvement, continues negative behavior that detracts from the learning experience of others, the child will be removed from the class or activity. Parents will be contacted to remove their child from the premises. The child will be allowed to return upon the parent and child meeting with ministry leaders (teacher, Ministry Team Chair, Leadership Team, Pastoral staff) and discussing the offending behavior and how it is now corrected.
- Situations that mandate immediate removal from the activity are fighting, striking another in any manner, use of foul language, or any behavior that is intimidating, threatening or dangerous to another person. (We have an obligation to protect all children and this protection obligation overrides any desire to be all-inclusive in attendance at activities or to not offend a parent.
- In the situation of chronic behavioral issues of any child or youth, the activity leader shall ban the child from further attendance until the parents have developed a behavioral modification plan and met with the Leadership Team. (It is appropriate, as one option for youth with dangerous behaviors to be allowed to mature before returning to group activities.)
- Leaders can function with the understanding that church activities are not the public school system and there is no legal obligation to accept behavior that is inconsistent with expectations and safety.

Signature

Date