

CMP Code of Conduct with Children

CMP wants to be a child-safe and child-friendly place. When leading or in a ministry role with children and young people as a part of a church activity:

DO:

- Provide a positive role model for children and young people and those who care for them.
- Treat children and young people with respect, listen to and value their ideas and opinions
- Carefully plan all activities involving children and young people to ensure they are appropriate to their safety, developmental needs and life experiences.
- Respect the privacy of children and young people and their families and only disclose information to people who have a need to know
- Report any concerns you have that a child or young person may be at risk of harm or abuse to the leader of the activity in which you are involved, and the CMP Child Safety Contact Person.
- Get parent's permission before providing transport, and inform them if it is possible you will be alone in a car at any time with a child or young person
- Follow the Child- Safe and Child-Friendly Policy (available on the website or from the church office)
- Tell a church leader if for any reason you have breached this Code of Conduct, whether or not harm occurred as a result of that action.

DO NOT:

- Engage in any activity with a child or young person that is likely to physically or emotionally harm them
- Use any form of physical force or harsh verbal language as discipline
- Do things of a personal nature for children and young people that they can do for themselves.
- Engage in any inappropriate or unwarranted touching of a child
- Develop 'special' relationships with specific children or young people for your own needs.
- Show favouritism through the provision of gifts or inappropriate attention.
- Make sexually suggestive comments, even as a joke.
- Be alone for more than a very short time with a child or young person.
Always ensure another adult is present or within view when conducting one-to-one contact with a child or young person. Always take a group of children to the toilet rather than one child on their own.
- Take a child or young person to your home, or encourage meetings at other venues, without others present.

Note: It is recognised that in the context of a caring church community, there will be contact between adults and children which are not dependent on the adult having a ministry or teaching role in the child's life. Such relationships may be more like family relationships, and may involve an adult undertaking babysitting and other nurturing roles on the invitation of and with the full knowledge and approval of that child's family. This Code of Conduct does not intend to stop church members taking on such roles, or from parents exercising nurture and discipline of their own children during church activities.

Church in the Market Place expects all its members in all contexts within the church to behave with children and young people in a way that promotes the child and young person's best interests, and will investigate any suggestion that an adult is abusing others' trust in them to do so.

This Code is current as of September 2011.