

Bethesda Baptist Church

Code of Conduct for our whole church family

It takes a village to raise a child. ~ African Proverb

At Bethesda, we want everyone to feel like part of a family. Our children and young people are loved and cherished by everyone, and we want them to feel secure at all times. While parents are of course ultimately responsible for their own children, we all have a duty to provide a safe and nurturing environment while at church or church related events.

Please keep these guidelines in mind during all interactions with our children and young people and adults at risk.

Key things to remember in all our interactions and behaviour:

- **Treat everyone with dignity and respect.**
- Think about language and tone of voice that you are using when engaging with children, young people, and adults at risk. Be aware of your body language and the effect you are having on the those you are working with. This applies to both in person and online interactions.
- Listen well to everyone. Be careful not to assume you know what a child or adult at risk is thinking or feeling. Listen to what is being spoken and how it is said. At the same time, observe the individual's body language to better understand what is being said.
- Be aware of any physical contact you may have with a child or adult at risk and record it when necessary. For instance, if you need to stop a fight, administer First Aid, give a hug to someone in distress, or protect yourself or others from danger.
- Do not make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child or adult at risk, even in 'fun'.
- Do not scapegoat, belittle, ridicule, or reject a child or adult at risk.
- Report any concerns to our Designated Person for Safeguarding.

DPS: Lynette Hodges

