

Safe Behaviour – working one to one

As part of our youth work programme, there are times when one to one work with young people is both necessary and beneficial. This may range from when a child or young person asks to speak with us alone, to planned discipleship, on-going support, or formal mentoring sessions. Mentors may include people outside the current youth and children's teams.

If a child or young person asks to speak to us on our own, we will respond in such a way that they can approach us for help and support, whilst we take responsibility for keeping them – and ourselves – safe.

This may mean that we:

- ✓ Hold the conversation in a place which gives sufficient privacy, but where others are still present, e.g. in a quiet corner of a room, or in another room with the door open or where there is glass in the door.
- ✓ Meet in a public place, e.g. a coffee shop after school.
- ✓ Arrange to meet at the Hub when another person is in the building and the young person knows they are there.
- ✓ Ensure that another adult knows the meeting is taking place.
- ✓ Agree a time limit for the conversation before it begins, and then stick to it!
- ✓ Insist that another worker is present if we believe that speaking to the young person would place us in a vulnerable position (e.g. if the young person has developed an inappropriate attachment).
- ✗ Take care that we don't go to the young person's home if they are alone, nor invite them to come to ours alone.

One-to-one working isn't recommended with children below secondary school age.

When we are working one-to-one with young people we will:

- ✓ **Be recognised**
 - Be a church member.
 - Hold a DBS disclosure.
 - Only mentor/disciple a young person with the active permission of the ministry leader (Julian), the Leadership Team, and parents.
- ✓ **Be accountable**
 - Keep a simple log of each meeting, noting the time, venue, and essence of the conversation.
- ✓ **Be responsible**
 - Maintain a professional distance, and not be at the beck and call of the young person.
 - Be aware when cooling off periods may be needed, or when to draw in others.
- ✓ **Be trustworthy**
 - Not reveal details of our conversations to others in the church.
 - Only pass information on if we believe the young person we are talking to, or other young people, are at risk of harm.
 - Ensure that the young person understands the boundaries of confidentiality.
- ✓ **Be seen**
 - Meet as part of an existing youth session if there are sufficient adults present to allow this.
 - Meet in a public place, e.g. a coffee shop after school or at the weekend.