



St Anne's and St Andrew's Joint Council

Policy Number: 9

Policy Title: Behaviour Policy

Approved: 23rd February 2016 Date for review: May 2017

Behaviour Policy for Groups for children and young people run by the Joint Council or their component bodies

We believe that children and adults flourish best in an ordered environment in which everyone knows what is expected of them and children are free to develop their play and learning without fear of being hurt or hindered by anyone else. We aim to work towards a situation in which children can develop self-discipline and self esteem in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement.

Unless otherwise stated, children remain the responsibility of their parents at all times. In the context of Sunday school, while children will be left with leaders, parents will remain on site. Parents accept that leaders will act in 'loco-parentis' during the group however, in the event of any major issues, children will be returned to the care of their parents.

In order to achieve this:

1. Rules governing the conduct of the drop in¹ and the behaviour of the children will be discussed and agreed within the group and explained to all newcomers, both children and adults.
2. All adults in the drop in will ensure that the rules are applied consistently so that children have the security of knowing what to expect and can build up useful habits of behaviour.
3. All adults will provide a positive role model for the children with regard to friendliness, care and courtesy.
4. Adults in the drop in will praise and endorse desirable behaviour such as kindness and willingness to share.

¹ Drop-in refers to all groups involving children including My Moves and Sunday School, and any similar groups which may be established.

5. We will take positive steps to avoid a situation in which children receive adult attention only in return for undesirable behaviour.

When children behave in unacceptable ways:

1. Physical punishment, such as smacking or shaking, will be neither used nor threatened.
2. Children will not be sent out of the room by themselves.
3. Techniques intended to single out and humiliate individual children will not be used.
4. Children who misbehave will be given one-to-one adult support in seeing what was wrong and working towards a better pattern.
5. Where appropriate this might be achieved by a period of "time out" with an adult.
6. In cases of serious misbehaviour, such as racial or other abuse, the unacceptability of the behaviour and attitudes will be made clear immediately, but by means of explanations rather than personal blame.
7. In any case of misbehaviour, it will always be made clear to the child or children in question that it is the behaviour and not the child that is unwelcome.
8. Adults will not shout, or raise their voices in a threatening way, except to protect children from harm.
9. Adults in the drop in will make themselves aware of, and respect a range of cultural expectations regarding interactions between people
10. Any behaviour problems will be handled in a developmentally appropriate fashion, respecting individual children's level of understanding and maturity.
11. Recurring problems will be handled by the whole staff, in partnership with the child's parents, using objective observation records to establish an understanding of the cause.
12. Staff will be aware that some kinds of behaviour may arise from a child's special needs.