

4. Guidelines for Parents

It is our intention that all the children in this church should be cared for, pastored, trained and developed in the safest possible way during the time that we are responsible for them. We would encourage parents to partnership with us in taking responsibility for their children. We would also like parents to be aware that if we believe that an incident has occurred that falls within child protection, we as a church are committed to act in conjunction with the proper authorities. Parents will be kept informed of our actions at all times except in cases of alleged sexual abuse where, because of the particularly sensitive nature of the allegations, we will inform the appropriate authorities before parents are notified.

The Kingston Vineyard teams who care for your children will undertake to:

- Treat children and young people with respect – being aware of their individual way of learning
- Be aware of the dilemmas of personal privacy versus need to protect children and young people from the possibility of abuse
- Follow guidelines when responding to the possibility of abuse
- Ensure that they do not put themselves in a position that could be considered compromising, ie being alone with children, allowing children to undress etc
- Gain parental and team leaders permission before applying creams to a child (such as for nappy rash, sun cream)
- Hold ourselves accountable to the team leader, try and inform them of what we are doing, and why
- Not allow adults into the children's areas if they are unknown regardless of who they say they are. We will not be afraid to challenge adults
- Know the guidelines, or where to find them, should we suspect that an inappropriate action has occurred. Know who to speak to in this situation
- Be aware and take action if required we won't leave it to someone else

Keeping Children Safe at Kingston Vineyard

- Hold as confidential information/concerns given to the Child Protection Coordinator or team leader
- Let the Child Protection Coordinators take responsibility for dealing with parents/police/social services.
- Be aware of health and safety issues and that we care for the children in an environment that protects them from injury, but that we have Injury procedures in place should an accident occur.
- Encourage those that apply to work with children to have been part of a small group for a minimum of 6 months
- Ensure that those who apply to work with children will complete application forms and undergo Criminal Records Bureau checks.
- Provide regular and ongoing training for those working with children.

We ask you as parents to undertake to:

- Complete a "Consent to attend Reel time" form for all children joining Reel time.
- Be aware that an incident book is available to record any situations that have occurred during Reel Time. This would be a situation such as fights, or warnings given to a child about behaviour, and that we may feel the need to talk with you about such situations.
- Realise that we have your child's best interests at heart, and that should any allegation be made that we consider to be in the area of child abuse we will deal with it according to our guidelines.
- Be aware that we have Accident forms that will be completed if there are any injuries that occur during the time we have care of the children, and that you will be informed of any such accident.