

Code of Conduct for St James Youth WhatsApp Groups

The terms 'child' and 'children' in this document refer to those between the ages of 13 and 18.

Please **keep** this copy for your own use

Parental consent must be given for young people under the age of 18 years old to be in contact with the youth team via social media and electronic communication. The youth team will keep a close eye on all communications within the groups.

♥ This code aims to show the children what is ok, and not ok, within ANY chat group, and that if they find any messages unpleasant, they need to report it to someone they trust. It could be just a misunderstanding, or it could be serious.

1. All Youth group chats on WhatsApp should include at least two leaders who have been safely recruited by St James Church and hold a DBS and safeguarding training.
2. Youth leaders and parents to use discernment concerning whether a child is ready for such a group. They must be **at least 13 years of age** in accordance with WhatsApp policy.
3. No adult leader to message any child privately.
4. No messaging before 8 am or within school hours.
5. No messaging after 9 pm, unless in an emergency or at an event.
6. Always use kind and respectful words when texting.
7. No one may share photos without permission from the people in the photo.
8. No one may send inappropriate or hurtful photos, videos or messages.
9. No one may share someone else's phone number without the permission of that person.
10. No one may send **direct personal messages**, including images and videos, to anyone without that person's consent.
11. If any message makes a child uncomfortable, they should ask an adult for advice. They also need to know how to block a number if they wish.
12. Children may remove themselves from the group at any time. If they later wish to rejoin the group, they just have to ask a leader.

If anyone misuses the group, we will chat with them to explain what was wrong. We will also chat to their parents. If they repeat any misuse, a leader will remove them from the group, until such time as it is agreed that they are ready to return.

The above code constitutes part of the St James safeguarding policy.