

The St J's Group Safeguarding Job Descriptions

Name of Role: Soul Food - Children's/Youth Worker

Where they meet: Peasedown Youth Centre

When they meet: Sundays weekly

Time they meet: 4.45pm-6pm

Age range: 2-15

Person to whom responsible: Rob Bubyer

Our three groups at Soul Food provide spiritual and fun activities for children during the service. Our supervised three groups at Soul Food are Joseph's CREW (Pre-School age range & School Year Reception); Ruth's CREW (School Year 1 to Year 6) and Bible Study Group (School Year 7 and above).

Duties are as below:

- To arrive by 4pm.
- Check safety of rooms and equipment before activity.
- Keep register for those attending and staff ratios.
- Nurture spiritual, social and emotional development.
- To assist in the group activities, making sure every child is involved, happy and safe.
- To assist the leader in clearing up or packing away.
- Report concerns to the Children's Pastor/Safeguarding Officer (Rob Bubyer)

Candidates are required to undertake a DBS check.

General Guidelines for Volunteers

Best practices (Codes of Behaviour) – guidance for group leaders and helpers

Awareness

- Be responsible for the group at all times and know what is happening during the session
- Consider safety at all times
- Be on the lookout for undesirable situations and try to avoid them before they start
- Give clear instructions
- Share any concerns with the group leader or the Children's Pastor

Manner

- Learn children's names and be pleased to see them, be friendly, but not over familiar
- Avoid embarrassing or belittling children
- Treat everyone with respect, be fair, but firm, and praise where appropriate
- Don't show favouritism - spend time with unpopular children
- Respect an individual's right to personal privacy
- Use simple language and your normal voice, be confident
- Don't use rude or offensive language, innuendos or inappropriate humour
- Don't jump to conclusions about others without checking facts
- Don't exaggerate or trivialise child-abuse issues (see section Safeguarding Policy on 'Abuse')

Listening

- Listen to the children and be aware of their interests, never avoid questions as everything they say is important to them
- Don't 'tower' over children – listen at their level
- Beware of misinterpreting their behaviour or what they are saying
- Provide opportunities for children to talk about concerns they may have

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Leading by example

- Be a good role model by providing an example you wish others to follow
- Tell the children about yourself - have confidence to talk about God and being a Christian
- Pray for the children and have others praying for you too
- Be scrupulously honest and act professionally

Relationships

- Get to know each child individually
- Try to build a relationship with their family and involve them if there is a problem
- Don't be critical of the child or the parents
- Encourage friendships between the children and help them to consider each other, e.g. ask more confident children to help new or less confident children

Discipline

- The team should be in agreement as to the standard of behaviour allowed in the group
- Lay down the ground rules from the start and apply them fairly and consistently
- It can be helpful to involve the children in the process of setting the rules
- Be calm, firm, matter of fact and prayerful. Mean what you say and be consistent
- Think of ways to handle specific situations, in advance, and decide sanctions should they be necessary. Possible sanctions are:
 - Give quiet reminder
 - Stand beside child
 - Put a quick hand on the shoulder
 - Ask child to move within the group
 - Ask child to move to the side of the room
 - Report to team leader
- If a child's behaviour is deemed damaging or unhelpful it may be necessary to involve the parents
- Let the child know that although their action is being punished, they are still valued and respected
- Always let them know why they are being punished
- A log should be kept of consistently negative behaviour to ensure appropriate action is taken
- Good behaviour should be rewarded
- Always remain calm and in control and avoid shouting. Never use physical force or hit a child
- Do not permit abusive peer activities (ridiculing or bullying)
- Do not allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour, such as tantrums or crushes
- Distinguish between children who are distracting (which is accidental) and children who are disrupting (which is deliberate). Your response needs to be different
- If a team leader finds the behaviour of a team member to be consistently destructive or unhelpful or challenging the vision and values of the St J's Group of churches, they should discuss their concerns with the Children's Pastor/Vicar.

Toileting

- Where possible avoid the situation where one adult takes a single child to the toilet, away from the rest of the group. If this is unavoidable, the adult should inform another adult of where they will be and for what purpose. Staff and volunteers will not change nappies. When this is necessary the parent will be contacted. It is important that leaders/helpers are not put in a position which could be wrongly construed or that could make it easy for a child to make wrongful allegations. If attending to a child's need (such as first aid, drinks, safety) do so in the presence of others.
- Older Children must request permission from their leader to go to the toilet. They are encouraged to go in twos where possible. Leaders and helpers should only go to the toilet to call children out if they are mis-behaving: in this instance, they should stand outside the door.

Contact with children

- It is important that leaders/helpers are not put in a position which could be wrongly construed or that could make it easy for a child to make wrongful allegations. If attending to a child's need (such as first aid, drinks, safety) do so in the presence of others. The following should be kept in mind:
 - Touch should be related to the need of the child and not that of the team member and should be age appropriate
 - The child, rather than the team member, should generally initiate touch

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- Touch should not be prolonged
- Team members should take responsibility for monitoring one another in the area of physical contact and should express any concerns to Children's Pastor (Further guidance can be found in the full safeguarding policy.)

Prayer ministry with children

- Be personally prepared and pay particular attention to dress, personal hygiene, and spiritual health.
- Be prayed for yourself, before and after.
- If at all possible, pray for children of the same sex as yourself and keep your eyes open.
- Use words carefully. Don't tell anyone they have an evil spirit. Pray positively, encouragingly and biblically.

Special Needs

- It is our aim to provide activities and support appropriate for all needs. Individual needs will be taken into account and appropriate support and resources will be sought by the Children's Pastor, in consultation with parents.

Dress Sense

- Leaders and helpers should not wear clothes that are likely to cause offence, draw any unhealthy attention or cause distraction.

Guide to handling pastoral situations:

Confidentiality

- If a child shares information that gives rise to concern, the Children's Pastor should be informed immediately. Information about a child should only be shared with the Children's Pastor. Leaders and helpers should not promise to keep secrets.

Supervision of children in groups:

Attendance

- Children will be brought to and collected from their groups by their parents
- Children must be registered at all children's activities
- At no time must a child be handed to a person not authorised to collect that child, including older siblings. If there is any doubt about the appropriateness of the person collecting the child, the Children's Pastor should be advised

Groups

We aim to ensure the following child to adult ratios:

- Age 0-2: 1 adult to every 3 children
- Age 2-3: 1 adult to every 4 children
- Age 3-5: 1 adult to every 8 children
- Age 5-7: 1 adult to every 8 children
- Age 8-11: 1 adult to every 8 children
- Age 12-14: 1 adult to every 10 children

Health and Safety

- Group leaders should always know how many children they are responsible for and where they are, at all times
- The children should know who the group leader is
- Common sense should be used when setting up rooms and resources. (Fire exits must be unlocked, exit routes must be clear, equipment must be in safe working order etc)
- Windows should be opened and closed by leaders, from the top down to avoid the risk of children falling/climbing out
- Children should not be permitted to climb on equipment or hide from sight. Particular attention should be paid to potential hazards such as stairwells, cupboards and equipment
- Children must not touch electrical equipment (sound systems, Projector, etc) without supervision
- Leaders should be familiar with health and safety procedures.
- Leaders should be alert to any unauthorised people in a meeting or at an event, and ask them to leave
- Children should be supervised at all times on the site.
- Special attention should be paid to safety in the car park at the beginning and end of activities/day.