

Kingsway Kids

Sunday School Behaviour Policy

Purpose

Kingsway Kids is the children's ministry of Kingsway Church, and aims to reflect its mission and values. Our purpose at Kingsway Kids is to lovingly educate children about God and His word through faithful Bible teaching. This ministry is organised and run by volunteers from our own church community who are committed to the spiritual learning of the children. As a church, we aim to work together to help and equip our children to grow in maturity in Christ.

This document seeks to outline the ministry's intent to establish a consistent, safe and loving environment for the children, in which each child is able to further develop their understanding of the Bible and their relationship with God and others. These policies aim to create an understanding between the volunteers, parents and the church on how best to safely and lovingly guide and teach the positive patterns of Christian behaviour to the children.

Values

In addition to the Kingsway Church values, Kingsway Kids is committed to upholding the **GROW** principle:

- Gospel-centred heart
- Respecting one another
- Obey and live by God's way
- Welcoming others just as God welcomed us

Expectations

We encourage and welcome parents/carers to participate fully in the spiritual learning and growth of their children. Kingsway Kids is a place where lessons learned about Jesus at home are reinforced. Kids Church is not finally responsible for a child's spiritual development - but is there to support parents and be a catalyst for growth by exploring the Bible and reinforce lessons learned at home.

During our Kids Church sessions, in order to uphold the values mentioned above, the Kingsway Kids **teachers** will:

- Ensure that the gospel is presented truthfully
- Prepare and run age-appropriate lessons
- Love and look out for children at all times
- Promote a safe, respectful and caring environment through positive reinforcement
- Meet all church and government defined safe-ministry practices (Breaking the Silence training, Working with Children Check)
- Update parents with relevant information about their children
- Carry out other specific responsibilities within the Kid's church ministry

The **safe-ministry practices** that Kingsway Church Kids ministry adheres to are:

- A leader/volunteer will never be alone with a child
- At least 2 leaders will always be rostered on Creche
- Sign-in and sign-out sheets allowing parents or carers to leave their mobile phone number
- Parents will be notified via SMS if their child needs to go to the toilet
- Protection of privacy preventing photographs and other images of being taken and posted without parental consent
- Zero tolerance of bullying behaviour where a child is repeatedly targeted to cause distress, humiliation, intimidation or exclusion from a peer group
- All activities are open to observation by the Minister, Session and parents so long as reasonable notice is given

In working together as a church, we also expect **parents** to:

- Encourage a positive attitude and high standards of engagement and behaviour to church and learning more about Christianity, taking an interest in the learning and activities of my child
- To the best of their ability, ensure the child knows what to expect at Kids Church and aim to take a full and active part in the activities while abiding by the ground rules

- Let the church know of any information that may impact my child's learning or behaviour
- Pray for and encourage teachers whenever possible, and partner positively in discipleship
- Be respectful to teachers as volunteers giving up their time to serve in the ministry
- Parents who disagree with teachers' ways of teaching or correction should respond graciously with appropriate feedback

In-Class Policies

With emphasis on compassion and understanding, we acknowledge that certain behaviours from children can challenge or disrupt how the classes are run. In each situation, the volunteers must make a judgement about what behaviours can be safely tolerated and what behaviours will be restricted. At Kids Church, our aim will be to reinforce positive behaviours and will implement the following guidelines to protect and ensure safety for the class:

- All children will be taught and reminded of the group ground rules, which are:
 - Listening when one person is talking
 - Respecting one another
 - Raise your hand when you want to contribute
 - Join in and have fun
- Disruptive or unsettled behaviour will be met with a conversation with the child reminding them of the group ground rules
- If disruptive or unsettled behaviour persists, a volunteer will contact the parent through the registered phone number to inform them and to have the parent remove the child either for a few minutes or for the remainder of the session at the discretion of the parents
- In circumstances involving inappropriate behaviour such as bullying, swearing, fighting, violence, name calling, vandalism or spitting, a volunteer will contact the parent to inform them and to have the parent remove the child either for a few minutes or for the remainder of the session at the discretion of the parents