

# Under 16s Code of Conduct Policy

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## Our Commitment

At Community Church Warragul, we believe everyone should have the right to live, work, learn, and worship in a safe and respectful environment, free from any kind of abuse.

Because we follow Jesus' example of love, we are committed to building a welcoming church where people of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures can grow and thrive.

We especially prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Abuse of any kind is never acceptable and will not be tolerated.

Any concerns or reports of abuse will be taken seriously, investigated properly, and reported according to the law.

## Introduction

This Code of Conduct is for anyone under the age of 16 who is involved in ministry at Community Church Warragul. It explains how young people are expected to behave and treat others during church activities.

- Parents or guardians should go through this Code with their child to make sure it is understood.
- This Code must be signed by both the young person and their parent/guardian.
- When a volunteer turns 16, they will be asked to sign the standard adult Code of Conduct.
- Signed copies will be securely stored in the Safe Ministry records by the Safety Contact Person.

## Purpose

This Code of Conduct helps young people involved in ministry:

- Follow the biblical values that guide how we live and serve.
- Make good choices in both their ministry and personal life.
- Support and live out the vision, mission, and values of Community Church Warragul.

## Biblical Principles

1. I will try to honour God and represent the church well through my actions.
2. I will keep growing in my faith and relationship with Jesus.
3. I will treat others with respect, love, and honesty. (*1 Timothy 4:12b*)
4. I will speak kindly and truthfully, avoid gossip, and respect people's privacy. I won't use rude or offensive language. (*Colossians 4:6*)
5. I will dress and act in a way that is respectful and appropriate.
6. If I have a conflict with someone, I'll try to resolve it kindly and directly. If needed, I'll ask a ministry leader for help. (*Matthew 18:15–16; 5:23–24*)
7. I will make responsible choices in my lifestyle, including how I handle substances, relationships, and personal behaviour. I understand my actions reflect on my faith and the church. (*1 Corinthians 10:23*)

## Ministry Principles

1. I will care for and protect those I serve, follow safety rules, and report any unsafe or inappropriate behaviour to a leader.
2. I will follow the Bible and this Code of Conduct, and represent my faith and the church in a positive way.
3. I will not contact children I lead through personal calls, texts, emails, or social media, unless it's part of a group that includes a parent and ministry leader.
4. I will be honest and responsible with any money matters related to ministry.
5. I will be on time, prepared, and respectful towards leaders and others.
6. I will not post anything online that could be seen as rude, hurtful, or inappropriate, especially about staff, volunteers, or members of the public.

## Volunteer Requirements

1. I will speak with my leader if I am unable to follow this Code of Conduct.
2. I will support and reflect the vision, mission, and values of Community Church Warragul through my words and actions.
3. I will follow all church policies, safety rules, procedures, and contracts, and take responsibility for my actions.
4. I will follow all relevant laws.
5. I will report any concerns or breaches of this Code by others without delay.

## Declaration

I have read and understood this Code of Conduct. I agree to follow its principles and accept that if I cannot meet these responsibilities, I may need to step down from my role. I understand that serious breaches may lead to disciplinary action or be reported to legal authorities if required.

### Volunteer

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent/Guardian

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_