

**SUNDAY SCHOOL – CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR POLICY**

**Statement**

The Sunday School encourages and supports children to have positive attitudes to themselves and others, valuing each child's efforts and interests and helping children to develop confidence and self-esteem.

Any behavioural difficulties that arise will be dealt with promptly and in a calm and consistent manner in accordance with the policy guidelines. For persistent and more serious behaviours, involving safety issues, verbal abuse or physical injury to other children or teachers, the parent(s) / guardian(s) will be invited to discuss the behaviour or incident with the Teacher or / and Sunday School Superintendent and a plan of action agreed. We will work in partnership with parents and will happily discuss the child's progress with the parent(s) / guardian(s) after each session.

Should every agreed effort to support the child be unsuccessful the Sunday School Superintendent may ask the parent(s) / guardian(s) to remove their child from Sunday School for a two week 'time-out' period. If there are recurring behavioural difficulties the Superintendent may ask the support of the Kirk Session. After a 'time-out' period the child will be warmly welcomed back into the Sunday School.

**Behaviour management – Guidelines**

1. Children must never be physically punished by a Sunday School Teacher.
2. Children should never be forcibly moved except in an emergency – when their own immediate safety is at risk.
3. Teachers should not shout at children unless as a means of attracting attention in order to ensure safety.
4. Teachers must never call children names or ridicule them in any way.
5. When a child misbehaves (s)he should be taken aside by a teacher to discuss the behaviour.
6. The teacher must explain why such behaviour is unacceptable, how it affects others, safety implications and so on. The child should always be given time to explain their behaviour.
7. Disciplinary action should take the form of:
  - Remove the child from the situation and discuss his/her actions as above.
  - Place the child in a quiet area away from other children but still under teacher supervision and allow the child time to calm down.
  - Where a child is unwilling to comply with acceptable behaviour or has to be removed from the room, the parent(s) / guardian(s) will be asked to supervise or remove their child. The child is welcome to return to the group when calm.
  - The child is expected to apologise for their behaviour.
  - When appropriate a child may be excluded from an activity for a set time.
8. When a group of children are misbehaving the following strategies may be used:
  - They may be separated or directed towards different activities.
  - A favourite activity may be withdrawn for a set time.
9. Teachers must be consistent and follow through on disciplinary action taken. When a child is being disciplined, the teacher responsible for the action must ensure that the group leader is in agreement and other teachers are aware of what has been decided.
10. Parent(s) / guardian(s) may be informed, depending on the incident, action taken or frequency.
11. If a child persistently misbehaves or shows disregard for adults, peer and/or equipment, the Sunday School Superintendent must be informed. The Superintendent or Teacher will arrange a meeting with the parents who should be asked to assist in an action plan.

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