

Trinity Youth Safety Guidelines

Preamble:

With a view to ensuring that children are safe while at Trinity, the Trustees and Board convened an ad hoc committee of young people, supervisory staff, and representatives from the Property, Trustees and Christian Education committees to gather and suggest appropriate guidelines.

Guiding Principles:

As a community of faith, committed to the inclusion and the well-being of all people, we want Trinity to be a place where our children are safe, but also where they can have fun and enjoy their time here – a place where they want to come.

We want this to be a place of learning about God and the spiritual side of life, and where they find support and guidance for such learning.

We want our children to feel they belong, that indeed they have some “ownership” of the place.

But we also want our children to realize the responsibilities that come with belonging, the need to be respectful of all others, to be courteous and share with others, to respect the church itself and be careful with equipment, to clean up after themselves, and ensure that what they use is not damaged, so others can enjoy as well.

We don't want a church that has a list of rules, of “Thou shalt nots” – but a church that encourages exploration, creativity, and generosity – where our children contribute to the church as well as are served by it.

Therefore, we will provide supervision where all adults and children ensure **safety**, encourage **play and learning**, and can expect **respect**.

When there are issues that are in tension with these guidelines, those in supervisory roles can either check with the Minister or the Chair of the Council for further guidance. If larger issues need to be considered, the ad hoc Safety Policy Committee can be recalled to provide more exact instructions.

Some Examples:

You can play dodgeball, but only with the appropriate balls and with children of an appropriate age;

Activities on the stage are only permitted for a specified reason, as long as the curtain is left alone and there is no jumping off the stage;

Young people can play the piano if they have taken lessons, but they need to do so with care. Playing is permitted but not playing around – it should be used as a musical instrument and not a toy.

It is the responsibility of everyone, adults, supervisory staff and the Sunday School children, to ensure that everyone is safe. If they are unsure about what's permitted or not, they should check with the supervisors (Christian Education Worker or Custodian) or the Minister and Chair of the Council for clarification.