

Guidelines for Online Ministry with Children and Youth



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We understand that this is a hard time for anyone involved in Youth and Children's Ministry.

We all care about the wellbeing and safety of children and youth and want to protect them from harm. You will be wanting to do ministry online and that means following the same Child Safe principles as you would offline. While pastoral care is critical it is best done in safe open spaces.

Always engage in ministry with under 18's with **at least two recognized leaders present**. Please avoid DM's, PM's, IM's and other one to one messaging spaces.

Avoid putting yourself in compromised positions. A youth/children's minister or leader shouldn't hang out in the bedroom of a child or youth one on one in normal life; you shouldn't do it online either.

Please use Zoom (preferable) or other group

Create safe environments. Keep events either

It is critical that we continue to actively care for the mental health of our young people during this time of increased anxiety. Keep contact with your youth and children, but please use phone calls (not video chat) for pastoral care where needed. **Avoid making late-night calls.** For preschool and primary-age children, consider calling parents and talking with children with the parent having their phone on loudspeaker. **Keep a diary note of all interactions** (time, date and summary of conversation). Where a significant issue is raised please inform your supervisor/youth minister/children and families minister/vicar. In this instance you may need to inform parents of concerns.

Encourage the use of real names; while aliases

Communicate with parents and church

Note: These guidelines are given to help you adhere to the Code of Conduct for Child Safety (<https://parishportal.melbourneanglican.org.au/governance/Child-safe-standards/Documents/Code-of-Conduct-for-Child-Safety.pdf>), and are not intended to replace or supersede it.

If you need further support, assistance or resources please do not hesitate to contact:

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