

# 5 Tips for Online Kids & Youth Ministry

For more detail please see the Safe Church Package – particularly the **Guidelines for Activities with Children & Young People** available at [www.creatingsafespaces.org.au/resources](http://www.creatingsafespaces.org.au/resources)

## 1. Be Values Driven

While a lot has changed with the physical distancing restrictions due to Covid19, the important things remain the same. Our ministry with children and young people is Jesus-centred, showing them His love and offering them His hope. Christ's hope is especially needed in this uncertain and changing time. Our usual patterns of ministry have needed to change, but the purpose of ministry with children and young people is still there.

## 2. Be Purposeful

Your purposes might include helping children and young people engage with the bible, build a relationally strong peer group and/or connect the generations. Not all the ways you do this need to be online.

### Practical tips:

- Empower parents to open the Bible with their kids find ways for young people not to be passive in this process.
- Get creative - look for non digital options.

## 3. Be Accountable

Communicate with parents and church leadership to get permission before commencing any new activity. Keep records of who attends an online activity.

### Practical tips:

- Zoom is useful for meetings - avoid Skype and other platforms that may share contact details with all users.
- Social media (Facebook, Instagram etc) are not appropriate for primary aged children.
- Only use platforms which allow messages to be retained.
- Don't film or record without everyone's permission.

## 4. Be Wise

Online or in person, do not engage in ministry with under 18's alone. Be sure to have at least two leaders. You may need more to help moderate chat.

### Practical tips:

- Create a group account from which messages can be sent. This provides automatic accountability.
- Make wise choices about your surroundings when in video based groups.
- Make sure advanced screen settings are set so that only you as host can share your screen.

## 5. Be Compliant

Any staff member or volunteer providing faith-based activities for children and young people is a mandatory reporter. This means that if you have serious concerns that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm (including abuse, neglect, psychological harm etc) you need to report it to the Department of Communities & Justice.

If there is an allegation of Reportable Conduct made against a staff member or volunteer in child related work (using the *Working With Children Check* definition) then the allegation must be reported to the Office of the Children's Guardian within 7 days. Although groups are not meeting in person, it is important to be aware of potential incidents or offences that may occur online, and do all we can to provide safe purposeful ministry.

For more detail please see the Procedures in the Safe Church Package.

If you have made a report or you are in any doubt about whether a report needs to be made please contact the  
**Ministry Standards Hotline - 1300 647 780**

If you have any questions contact Katie Watson (Safe Church Coordinator)  
[kwatson@nswactbaptists.org.au](mailto:kwatson@nswactbaptists.org.au)