

SAFE HABITS BECOME SAFE CULTURE.

We want children to experience church as warm, welcoming and safe. Clear habits help adults care naturally while keeping healthy boundaries.

BE WARM WITH CHILDREN. BE CLEAR WITH BOUNDARIES.

1

STAY VISIBLE

Avoid being alone one-to-one with a child. If it happens unexpectedly, bring another adult in promptly and make a simple record of what occurred.

2

CHOOSE SAFE GREETINGS

High fives, fist bumps, waves and 'wiggle fingers' are great everyday ways to show warmth without creating unnecessary physical closeness.

3

LET ADULTS SET THE BOUNDARY

Do not initiate tickling, rough play, lap-sitting, cuddling or similar contact. Adults carry the responsibility for keeping interaction appropriate.

4

HUGS ARE FOR FAMILIES

If a child initiates a hug, do not embarrass or reject them. Keep it brief and open or side-on - a 'canoe hug' - then disengage warmly.

5

KEEP PHONES PARENT-FACING

Do not show or share content directly with a child from your personal phone. Send it to the parent or carer so they can share it with the child.

6

BRING AWKWARD MOMENTS INTO THE LIGHT

If something feels unclear or a boundary is crossed, involve another adult, speak with a Safe Spaces person, record accurately and follow the pathway.

SAFE BOUNDARIES DO NOT MAKE CHURCH COLD.

They help us be warm, wise, visible and above reproach.