

Buies Creek First Baptist Church Youth Policy

Our Biblical Basis:

1 Timothy 4:12

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

Purpose Statement:

Come. Connect. Serve. Go

Age:

Participants must be in 7th grade through 12th grade

PARENT’S RESPONSIBILITIES: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Wednesday Night:

- Youth must be supervised at Wednesday night dinners. They must eat in the main fellowship hall. No youth will be allowed upstairs or in any of the Sunday school classrooms during the meal.
- If parents are **not** staying for the meal, they may **only** drop off youth **no earlier** than 6:25 p.m., for Wednesday night youth. This allows for safety of youth, and allows for youth leadership to know who is present.
- Church leaders only provide supervision for **15 minutes** after the end of a student ministry activity at church. Parents are responsible for knowing start times and end times of activities. If an emergency happens unexpectedly, the parent/guardian must notify youth leadership, so they can make arrangements for the youth
- Parents are expected to drop off and pick up their youth at the Welcome Center.

Youth events:

- When dropping off youth for youth events, parents must **sign in** their youth. Parents must include who is **taking them home** and **how they can be reached**. When parents leave the premises, they are **expected** to answer their phone, based on the contact information put on the sign in sheet
- Each youth event has a specific purpose. Parents will be notified as youth events are planned on whether the event is specifically for BCFBC youth or will be considered an event where guests can be invited.

Camp Policy:

Camp is a fun time for our youth during the summer, but it requires detailed planning from our youth leadership, including registration deadlines. Below is the final budget plan for paying for camp each summer, **per child.**

- 1/3- Youth budget
- 1/3- Fundraising
- 1/3- Parent

1. Parents are expected to pay **1/3** of the camp cost for their youth. If parents have a financial concern about paying for camp, they must notify youth leadership or the pastor **two months in advance.**

2. Parents must register their child on time, according to the registration deadline given. If parents do not sign up their youth by the deadline, their youth will not be able to attend camp

3. Participation in the parent led fundraising is expected. Also, to be a camp participant, youth must be an active part of our youth ministry

Other responsibilities:

- Praying for their child and all youth at Buies Creek First Baptist Church (BCFBC)
- Encouraging students to bring their Bibles to worship services, Sunday School, and Wednesday night programs
- Volunteering to serve on at least one youth ministry event during the year

STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Cell phone usage:

No cell phone usage will be permitted during youth ministry activities. This can include volunteering at service projects, Wednesday night youth, etc. Unless an emergency occurs or permission is granted by the youth leader, youth are expected to stay off their cellphones.

Dress code:

Youth are expected to maintain modesty. Parents are expected to be mindful of how their youth dress before coming to church

Behavior:

1. Aggressive behavior, disrespect, bullying, or inappropriate language will not be tolerated. Those participating in youth are encouraged to treat all participants, students and leaders alike, with respect. Good manners and politeness are expected of youth participants.
2. Reverence in certain areas (i.e., the sanctuary), and during certain programs (i.e. worship and prayer times) is expected.
3. Youth are expected to follow these rules at any youth event
 - Respect one another
 - Respect the property we are using
 - Respect the people with whom we come into contact with
4. Youth shall refrain from inappropriate displays of affection such as kissing, prolonged embracing, or other body contact inappropriate to a church environment. Genuine respect for each other in word, thought, and deed will be encouraged by adult leadership.

DISCIPLINE PROCESS

The youth is expected to exhibit good behavior while at bible study, Sunday school and other youth-related events/activities. If any youth member is excessively disruptive, discipline measures will be taken by youth leadership. The following will occur:

1. The youth leader will remove the student from the setting (in a visible location), and confront the student about his/her behavior and why it is unacceptable. The leader will allow the student to return to the setting, with the condition that the student will stop being disruptive and exhibiting bad behavior.
2. If the problem persists, the student will be given one more warning.
3. If still the problem persists, the youth will be removed from the setting and parents will be contacted to inform them that the student may not continue participation in the event and to determine how supervision will be transferred back to the parent. (In cases of long distance youth trips, youth leadership will still call parents, and determine the appropriate discipline measure together.)

Physical contact between leaders and youth:

- It is expected that youth leadership maintain appropriate forms of affection with youth, such as side hugs, high-fives, or verbal praise. Any form of inappropriate physical contact, touching, or displays of affection should be **immediately** reported to the Youth Pastor/ Director or the Pastor. Physical contact in any form should not give even the appearance of wrongdoing. The personal behavior of staff or volunteers in the Youth Ministry must foster trust at all times. Personal conduct must be above reproach.

Transportation:

- Only church approved drivers are permitted to drive the van or their own personal vehicles to transport youth
- With the exception of arrangements made prior to arrival, parents are responsible for the youth's transportation to and from youth functions
- Parents are responsible for all student driven vehicles
- Parents are also responsible for their student who has their permission to ride in another person's vehicle. Permission must be given to youth leadership.
- The church, its leaders, staff, or members cannot be responsible or held liable for the safety of youth-driven vehicles and cannot guarantee the quality of driving or proper insurance

The number of youth, leaders, and chaperones per vehicle will NOT exceed the number of safety belts available. All persons driving during Buies Creek First Baptist Church sponsored youth event MUST use seat belts at all times. Failure to comply will cause the driver to delay movement of the vehicle.

Driving students- In the case that students need to be driven home, the following guidelines must be followed

- When transporting youth to and from youth events, including taking youth home, church staff must **never** be alone with a youth in the vehicle.
- Chaperones are expected to ensure each student goes inside their house before leaving the premises

Two Adult Rule:

The two-adult rule states that there must always be two adults, non-related, present when supervising one or more students. This rule is designed for the safety of adults as well as minors, and is required across all ministry areas. Compliance to the two-adult rule includes the following:

- There must always be two adults (non-related) present when supervising one or more students
- The adults should be in sight of each other at all times

Visible location- if a youth leader must pull aside a student to talk to him or her, due to behavioral problems and/or any other reasons, the youth leader must choose an area where he/she can still be seen by another youth leader.

Background Check:

Every person working with children must: have attended BCFBC regularly for at least 3 months and submit to a criminal background check. Background check updates will be ordered every two years when working with children. All volunteer background checks will be kept completely confidential and properly secured in the church office for safe keeping.

Injury or illness report:

Any incident of injury or illness must be reported by the teacher or volunteer immediately to the Youth Minister, who will contact the parent. If deemed necessary an accident report will be completed and reported to the churches insurance company in a timely manner.

Illness and Medical Issues:

1. If your youth is sick or has been sick within the past 24 hour period before church services or events, we ask that you NOT bring your child to church. Please adhere to the 24 hour fever rule, which states that a youth needs to be fever free without medication for a 24 hour period before attending church events. **Children with the following symptoms may be contagious:**

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher
- Nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea
- Yellow or green nasal mucous
- Severe coughing, strep throat
- Any untreated rash, skin infection or open lesion
- Head lice or nits in the hair
- Pinkeye or other eye infections with mucous discharge
- Flu-like symptoms: chills, sweats, body aches, coughing up yellow or green mucous

2. Any symptoms of infectious communicable childhood diseases: if any of these symptoms occur while in class, the youth may be isolated away from the other youth while the parent or responsible party is located. We will ask you to come to take your youth home.

3. Parents are asked to inform the Ministry Staff of any **medical or emotional conditions** that might need to be addressed while in the care of our staff or volunteers. Information will be kept confidential and will be made known only to those teachers/volunteers on a need to know basis.

4. Prescription Medication Administration. For safety reasons, parents are asked to be responsible for giving medications to their own children for children's events that last less than four hours. For longer events and or overnight events, explicit directions on medication administration must be shared with the chaperone that will be supervising the youth. Dosages of medication must be separated in baggies (non-liquids only) for each time the medication is to be

administered. Each bag should have the youth's name and the date and time the medicine is to be administered.

Issues or Concerns:

At any time a parent or guardian has any concerns about the care provided or the policies in place he/she will be encouraged to address their concerns to the staff member responsible for Youth ministry.

A. The staff member responsible for Youth ministry will always take action on any expressed concerns and follow up with the parent or guardian who has expressed concerns.

B. Concerns regarding facilities will be addressed as soon as possible by the staff member and any other indicated personnel (building and grounds, etc.).

C. Concerns regarding a volunteer will be addressed immediately by the staff member responsible for said ministry or that staff member's supervisor and the volunteer who is in question will be relieved immediately of any teaching duties until the concern has been addressed and resolved.

D. Concerns regarding a staff member will be addressed **immediately** by the pastor and the staff member will be relieved immediately of any duties until the concern has been addressed and resolve