



## Whithaugh Park 2008

### BEHAVIOUR POLICY

#### Introduction

With everything that is happening world wide it is important that every organisation takes the necessary steps to protect the children and young people who are entrusted into their care.

The Children's Act in 1989 introduced two very important principles:

- Firstly, the child's welfare is paramount. Children have a right to be heard and considered.
- Discipline out of love **never** anger. Secondly, the act implies that all who have contact with children have a duty to promote, protect and contribute to their welfare.

It is important that we don't ignore these principles. As leaders for York Christian Youth Holidays (YCYH), we therefore have a responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of the children entrusted to us.

As an organisation, we have a full child protection policy, part of which includes issues around discipline and all our leaders are subject to this.

#### Why Discipline?

It brings security, produces character, prepares for life, is evidence of love and is God's heart. (Hebrews 12:6 and Proverbs 22:6).

#### Our Aims When Dealing With Discipline

- Ask God for wisdom, discernment and understanding.
- Remember that each child is unique, special and individual, and each child needs a different method of being dealt with.
- Discipline out of love **never** anger.
- Build healthy relationships with children and be a good role model.
- Be consistent, insistent and persistent.
- **Never** smack, or hit a child.
- Not shout in anger or put down a child.
- Lay down ground rules (e.g. no swearing, racism, bullying, smoking, alcohol, and show respect for property).
- Keep the ground rules simple and clear, and make sure the children understand what procedure will be taken if they are not kept.
- Talk to a child away from the 'group', not publicly.
- Never reject a child, just the behaviour.
- Work on each individual child's positives, encouraging good behaviour.
- Take care to give quieter and well-behaved children attention and don't allow some children to take all your time and energy.
- Be pro-active when dealing with a situation.
- Pray for the children and with the children.

## Rules

Whilst under our care, all children must understand and adhere to the following rules:

- Obey the rules for the safety and welfare of all, including all rules issues by Whithaugh Park staff.
- Show respect to leaders, including Whithaugh Park staff, and other groups who share the centre.
- No smoking.
- Under no circumstances should any child be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any other substance, except for their own personal medical reasons.
- No bullying, including either physical or verbal intimidation or threat to another person.
- No use of language that causes offence to another person.
- Observe Fire regulations.
- Do not be involved in any activity, which could cause potential harm to themselves or others (e.g. bringing offensive weapons, the involvement in pranks).
- Respect for all facilities and equipment, and all accidents and breakages must be reported.
- Sleeping accommodation is single sex occupancy. Under **no** circumstances should boys be in girls lodges or girls in boys lodges.

## Reward

It is very important that we recognise children's good behaviour. Praise is the preferred way of encouraging good behaviour.

## Sanctions

A discipline policy and agreement, that all children must sign and adhere to, is now included as part of our child protection policy. This makes clear ground rules, and ensures that all leaders, children and their parents/guardians know and understand the course of actions to be taken should there be any bad behaviour during the holiday.

We aim to develop self-discipline in the children entrusted to us, but sanctions may be necessary to deal with bad behaviour. An apology for actions that go against the code of conduct should always be sought.

Sanctions will be applied in the following order:

- Individual warning with their lodge leaders in attendance.
- Individual warning by the leadership group including one of their lodge leaders in attendance.
- Removal of significant privileges such as main activities. There will no refund from these activities.
- Formal discussion with parents indicating the possibility of being sent home.
- Permanent exclusion, by being sent home from the holiday, if the child's behaviour is consistently detrimental to the well being of himself/herself or others. This will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make arrangements to collect the child at their own expense. There will also be no holiday or activity refund returned.

In line with the 1996 Education Act, in the exceptional situation of a child being a danger to themselves or to others, she/he may be restrained by a leader/s, using reasonable force. In the event of a serious incident we reserve the right to send the child home with immediate effect. This will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make arrangements to collect the child at their own expense. There will also be no holiday or activity refund returned.

## Declaration

This behaviour policy has been produced, so that children, along with their parents/guardians understand our aims when dealing with discipline, rules, rewards, and sanctions when dealing with bad behaviour. It is **vital that this policy is read, signed** (*declaration form enclosed*) **and returned within 14 days of receipt**, otherwise it could lead to your child's holiday being cancelled.

**Keep this policy for your reference**