

## **The Forest Kirk Uniting Church: *Child-Safe and Child-Friendly***

### **Code of Conduct for Working with Children & Young People**

#### **DO:**

- Provide a positive role model for children and young people and those who care for them.
- Treat children and young people with respect, listen to and value their ideas and opinions.
- Carefully plan all activities involving children and young people to be appropriate to their safety, developmental needs and life experiences.
- Respect the privacy of children and young people and their families and only disclose information to people who have a need to know.
- Report any concerns you have that a child or young person may be at risk of harm or abuse.
- Get parent's permission before providing transport. Inform parents if it is possible you will be alone in a car at any time with their child.

#### **DO NOT:**

- Engage in any activity with a child or young person that is likely to physically or emotionally harm them.
- Use any form of physical force or harsh verbal language as discipline.
- Initiate unnecessary physical contact with children and young people or do things of a personal nature that they can do for themselves.
- Develop 'special' relationships with specific children or young people for your own needs.
- Show favouritism through the provision of gifts or inappropriate attention.
- Make sexually suggestive comments, even as a joke.
- Be alone for more than a very short time with a child or young person. Always ensure another adult is present or within view when conducting one-to-one interviews. Take a group of children to the toilet rather than one child on their own.
- Seat a child or young person in the front seat of your car when you are travelling alone with them.
- Take a child or young person to your home, or encourage meetings, without others present.

**If you have breached this Code in any way, for any reason,  
make sure you inform a leader or supervisor what you did and why.**