

## Christ the Redeemer Youth FAQ's Regarding Child Protection

In general, when you are thinking about adults interacting with youth it is wise to think about interactions being **observable and interruptible**.

*1. Am I allowed to be one on one with a child? What if we are meeting in a public place (i.e. restaurant, coffee shop)*

Some events, such as discipleship, require one adult to focus on one student. The adult will let their supervisor and the child's guardian know of each meeting. The meeting should take place at a public place with high visibility or in a place where the guardian or supervisor can observe from a distance.

*2. Can I give students rides in my car?*

Yes, as long as there is at least one other student OR adult in the car.

*3. Can I have students over to my house?*

Yes, as long as there is another student OR another adult (that is not your spouse) present.

*4. Can I text/personal message an individual student directly?*

Communication from youth worker (volunteers or staff) to youth should be public and visible. Leaders can use an app like "Band" or another similar app to spread general information to the group. Texting one on one should not be done. If a student needs to be texted, another youth volunteer or a parent should be copied on the text.

Group texts are ok as well.

*5. Can I like/comment on their social media?*

Yes, as long as commenting or liking is in a public forum online it's ok. Social media should be used responsibly. Any app (Ex: Snapchat) that is not public or observable should not be used. It would not be ok to send them a direct private message through a social media app (ex: Instagram story)

*6. Can a married couple/family with young children (not in youth) host an event/meal at their house for youth students? (either gender)*

Yes, as long as there is more than one youth OR another adult (that is not your spouse) present.

*7. Can a volunteer talk on the phone with a student if they are going through something or does a 3rd person always have to be included?*

Ideally, one on one interactions would occur in person in a public place. If a youth does initiate a phone call or text it is ok to respond and send quick text back saying "Hey, let's talk to your parents so we can set up a time to meet at Starbucks about this" or "Is there

anyone else you feel comfortable with me including in this discussion"? as a way to get back within the boundaries of the policy without going radio-silent. One on one phone calls and texts are not observable and interruptible. Volunteers should not initiate this type of communication.

*8. If given special permission from a parent, can a volunteer text, give a ride, or meet 1:1 (not in a public place)? Does the policy apply for students and volunteers who have friendship previous to becoming a part of the youth group? (Ex. A neighbor or family friend, maybe someone who you've babysat for and are comfortable with and the family asks you to give a student a ride.... feels rude to say no but is technically against policy)*

If a family has initiated a church volunteer/worker to help their family for something that is not a church sanctioned event (ex: babysit in their home) none of these interactions are violations of our policy. If driving is one on one to and from a youth event it would be a violation. There are gray areas - like meeting on the square. The policy would recommend meeting in a public place.

Remember the "Rule of 3". In other words, If you are ever confused or if something is grey...just remember: it should never just be you and one other student in a private space. Whether that is in a building, car, or you are at your house. Also, the rule of 3 can apply when communicating on cell phones/ social media as well.