

# Our Values



## Joy

We love to be full of joy at Reality, whether you're having your best day or your worst day. You belong here - all you have to do is be yourself!

Psalm 16:11 "You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

## Kindness

We practice empathy by showing each other self-sacrificial kindness, and we go above and beyond to compassionately look out for each other.

Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

## Integrity

We bring our whole selves to the community and show love to each other. We extend grace and encourage each other to live with honest integrity.

Proverbs 21:21 "Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honour."

## Respect

We treat everyone with equal respect by listening and speaking the truth in love. We seek to understand each other and honour boundaries.

Romans 12:10 "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

## Generosity

We freely give each other our time and attention, and we share our gifts and talents to make the community better.

2 Corinthians 9:8 "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."





# GUIDELINES AND SAFEGUARDING POLICIES

## General Boundaries

Behaviour and language in accordance with Reality Values is expected at all times.

Any behaviour or language not in accordance with Reality Values will not be tolerated and allowed to continue. Youth will be given one warning, the second warning will result in being taken out of the activity, and a third warning will result in parents called to pick up youth. Multiple phone calls to parents may result in temporary exclusion from Reality, and youth would be invited back after a meeting between the youth pastor, parent, and youth.

Youth are expected to stay in the youth room with the group for the entire duration of the program, unless previously agreed with a parent or guardian. If youth leave early without parent's confirmation, leaders will call parents to notify.

Mobile phones should be put away during the program, unless given explicit permission by a leader. Youth should not take pictures on their phone of other youth without permission.

Good boundaries should be kept. Youth should seek explicit permission before touching, which can be withdrawn at any time. Leaders may prohibit a youth from touching another youth, even if permission was given. Leaders should hold to appropriate physical boundaries when showing affection (hugs initiated by youth only, no wrestling or rough housing, harsh touch never used for discipline). All toilets are single occupancy.

Leaders may contact youth outside of Reality for setting up one-to-one mentoring, encouragements, or notifying/reminders of youth program. This will be done using text messages, rather than WhatsApp or other messaging platforms.

## Safeguarding Policies

Aldates Youth is committed to the same Safeguarding Policies for promoting a safer church as the broader St Aldates Church. Aldates Youth will:

- Safely recruit and train all volunteer leaders, according to the Church of England Safeguarding policies, maintaining a culture of accountability and vigilance.
- Cultivate a safe environment for youth to share potential safeguarding concerns from any of their contexts.
- Signpost in the youth room our safeguarding policies and directions for contacting our PSO with any concerns, for both volunteers and youth.
- Listen to and support any youth who find themselves in vulnerable positions.

Further information about St Aldates Safeguarding policies can be found at:

[www.staldates.org.uk/safeguarding](http://www.staldates.org.uk/safeguarding)



# GUIDELINES AND SAFEGUARDING POLICIES

## How we do prayer ministry at Reality

There may be times of prayer ministry during Reality, where youth respond to a certain call and would like to receive prayer or be guided in prayer by a leader. Our leaders:

- Ask the youth if they would like prayer for or what they are responding to, then tell them what you are going to do: pause to listen to what God wants to say, pray out loud, invite the youth to pray if they feel led.
- Ask permission to put a hand on a shoulder and offer an alternative, and if permission is given, lightly lay one hand on the shoulder. Stand in front of and slightly to the side of the youth. Pray with eyes open.
- Share any pictures or words from the Spirit, and invite the youth to share anything God might have been saying to the youth. Use simple language that would be familiar to youth as much as possible.
- End with a final prayer or blessing. Invite further conversation or follow-up if the youth wants to process more. Offer pastoral advice/discipleship if needed.
- Keep confidentiality of what is shared, within safeguarding policies. If a youth begins to share something that indicates they are at immediate harm to themselves or others, leaders will let them know they would have to share that with the safeguarding officer and invite youth to keep sharing if they still feel comfortable.
- Guy leaders will pray for young men and women leaders will pray for young women. There will be at least 2 leaders in the room where prayer is happening. If it is in a bigger room like the main church building, the speaker/service leader should invite youth to respond and be prayed over at the front of the room.

## Prayer ministry at NightLife

During events like NightLife, where there would be many youth unknown to our team, or volunteers not from the regular Reality team, leaders should, as far as possible, pray for youth they have a previous relationship with and encourage youth to seek leaders they came with.

If the youth seeking prayer is unknown to the leader, leaders should introduce with *'I've noticed you came forward for prayer. My name is... and I'm a volunteer youth leader at St Aldates, did you come with another group?'* If the youth replies no, the leader should ask the youth their name, and use the same process to ask if the youth would like prayer.



# GUIDELINES AND SAFEGUARDING POLICIES

## Outside of Reality

Leaders may contact youth outside of Reality for setting up one-to-one mentoring, encouragements, or notifying/reminders of youth program. This will be done using text messages, rather than WhatsApp or other messaging platforms. Leaders will not send pictures, and they will only video call without another adult present in the conversation.

Some youth and leaders might meet up outside of Reality for one-to-one mentoring. To initiate this, leaders will contact the parents of the youth to explain the nature and process of the relationship. The leader and youth will meet in a public place, and meetings might look like reading the Bible together, helping the youth set goals, or offering pastoral support to the youth. The leader will notify the youth pastor of the date and place of the meeting, who will keep a log. The content of the discussion can remain confidential, unless a safeguarding concern was presented.

## More questions?

If you have more questions or queries about our current guidelines and safeguarding policies please get in touch via: [youth@staldates.org.uk](mailto:youth@staldates.org.uk)

Thank you for reading.

Sara Parsons & St Aldates Youth Team