

St. Paul's Covenant of Caring for Children & Youth

Children are EXPECTED AND WELCOME HERE!

St. Paul's strives to be a safe and welcoming place for all generations of the parish – and that depends in large part on the parents and guardians of our children and youth.

This covenant details ways we as clergy, teachers, staff and parents pledge to work together to keep them safe and happy.

St. Paul's Commitment to You and Your Children

St. Paul's holds to the following safety standards for classes and programs:

- One adult (age 21 or older) per six children (infant to 12)
- One adult per seven youth (ages 12-18)
- At least two adults with children and youth at all times
- For safety we keep our doors open. Classes and programs are always held in rooms you can easily see into.

The Nursery School Playground is equipped and designed for children five and younger. Older children are welcome to use the playground with the permission of the adult supervisor.

We never allow children of any age to be left there alone.

Our Parents' Commitment to You and Your Children

As parents and guardians, we will share with children and youth what activities are encouraged, as well as those practices that are "not ok." Here's what they need to understand at Parish Gatherings, and around the church campus:

We Encourage...

- Running around in Foote Hall gym, and playground
- Playing the piano gently and shooting baskets in basketball hoops in the Foote Hall Gym, as long as classes and special presentations are not in session.
- Enjoying the playground when supervised by adults.
- *Respecting others, their feelings and things.*

What's NOT OK...

- Running anywhere but Foote Hall and the playground, (i.e. halls, stairways)
- Playing on the stage or chair racks in Foote Hall.
- Playing upstairs, in the classrooms.
- Playing in Higbie Library or other meeting spaces, or in the Columbarium.
- Venturing outside of a parish gathering without a parent or guardian.

Please keep this information in mind when we gather for coffee hour after worship, receptions following special events (i.e. evensong, weddings), church festivals such as the Advent and Lenten Festivals, the Annual Meeting, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and any other such occasions.

As always, while we believe "it takes a village" to ensure the safety and well-being of our children, parents are ultimately responsible for their children (ages infant to 18), their behavior and their whereabouts.