



# ***YOUTH***

## **Policies & Guidelines**

**Information for parents**

*A youth is a student in secondary school.*

Extracted from the Youth Development Policy and the Youth Safety and Security Policy. Approved by the Board of Directors of Heart of God Church.

# SAFETY & SECURITY

When we say we love youths, we look out for them! We have policies and measures in place to provide them with a safe and secure church to grow in.

## ENHANCED SAFETY & SECURITY MEASURES

### ***YOUTH EVENTS AND CAMPS***



#### **Regular Security Sweep**

Electronic surveillance sweeps of the church premises for hidden cameras are conducted by third-party professionals on a regular basis throughout the year.



#### **Robust Security Protocols**

The Church Security Team undergoes training conducted by the Singapore Police Force and Singapore Civil Defence Force ensuring that our security protocols are calibrated to the highest standards.

### ***LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS***



#### **Screening**

Those who interact with youths and children have to submit a self-declaration form annually to obtain a Safety and Security Certificate before they can serve.



#### **Code of Conduct**

Leaders have to sign and declare on an annual basis that they will adhere to a code of conduct.



#### **Rule of Three**

Persons of the opposite gender should not be alone together; there should be at least three people together at any point in time, following the combination of 2 females + 1 male.

# SAFETY & SECURITY

## ACTIVITIES



### **No Water-Based Activities**

(e.g. swimming and water theme parks)



### **No Alcohol**



### **No Cycling on Roads**

Cycling at parks allowed (e.g. East Coast Park, Pasir Ris Park)

## PARENTS' CONSENT



### **Stayovers & Church Activities Past 12 a.m.**

Parental consent forms required for church stayovers and activities that go past 12 a.m.



### **Water Baptism**

Parental consent forms required for those under 21.

## WHISTLEBLOWING

If any misconduct, impropriety or wrongdoing is detected, there is a whistleblowing platform for concerns to be raised in good faith.

**The Safety and Security Command was established to oversee all safety and security matters in Heart of God Church.**

For more information on our safety and security policies, visit [www.hogc.sg/governance](http://www.hogc.sg/governance)

# EDUCATION

Since the Academic Excellence (AE) programme was launched in 2005, we have seen students improving in their grades, coming in top in their schools and growing in curiosity and confidence as they apply the principles and wisdoms of AE. Every year, we kickoff our AE programme with these initiatives:

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



### Academic Excellence Open House

- We dedicate a few weekends in the year to talk about AE.
- Youth are encouraged to invite their parents & teachers.
- Our leaders will be present to discuss the well-being of the youth.



### Study Requirement

- From July, we encourage students taking major examinations to complete 20 hours of study per week outside of their regular school hours.
- Enforcement is based on students' honesty. Thus, we encourage parents to monitor their child's revision as well.



### Balancing Commitments

- During their "O" Level year, students must meet an L1R5 of  $\leq 20$  for leadership, and an L1R5 of  $\leq 25$  to volunteer in ministry.



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### Prizes & Rewards

- Each year, we encourage and motivate our youths by rewarding those who have scored well in their major exams (PSLE, "O" Levels, "A" Levels and at the Polytechnic).
- We also reward our Top All-Rounder Student and Most Improved Student.
- Over the last 16 years, we have given out more than S\$140,000 worth of prizes in the form of cash, vouchers, iPads, iPhones, Apple Watches and so on.

# FAMILY

We know parenting teens can be challenging and we are here to supplement your efforts to provide a positive environment at home.

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY POLICIES



### Family-Friendly Service Timings

- Services are held at 1:30 p.m. on the weekends.
- This is so that youths can meet their families for brunch or dinner.



### Breaks for Family Bonding

- Our church is closed during key periods such as Chinese New Year.
- There are no services so that the youths can spend quality time with their family.



### Weekly Quality Family Time

- We also encourage youths to spend quality time with their family every week.

## ***ACHIEVING THE RIGHT BALANCE***

During the school term, secondary school students are encouraged to go home earlier when they have school the following day so that they get enough rest and time to prepare for school.

They are also encouraged to have effective personal time management as well as to communicate proactively with their parents.