**St. Patrick Presbyterian Church**

**YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTRY *BRIGHT LINE POLICIES 2023***

These positive behaviors are appropriate in ministry to students:

● Verbal praise

● High-fives, fist taps or gentle hand on shoulder

● Brief hugs or side hugs – particularly if initiated by student

● Handshakes or arm around shoulder

The following behaviors are inappropriate in student ministry programs:

● Kisses in any form

● Full frontal hugs, ‘bear hugs’, long lingering hugs

● Holding a student on the lap

● Tickling or wrestling with a student

● Piggyback rides or rides on shoulders

● Any type of massage

● Touching knees or legs of a student

● Physical affection in isolated areas such as closets, staff-only areas, sleeping areas, changing areas or private rooms

● Any form of unwanted physical affection

● ‘Wedgies’, pantsing, towel pops or ‘cup checks’ (*playful but inappropriate touch)*

● Touching a student who has requested (verbally/non-verbally) NOT to be touched

● Comments or compliments (spoken, written or electronic) that relate to physique, body development or sexual topics or behaviors

● Social media or texting communication other than in a GROUP context

● NEVER text a student who is not your gender

● NEVER text a student before 7am or after 10pm, absent an emergency

● NEVER sleep in the same bed as a student

● NEVER transport only ONE student

● NEVER be alone and unsupervised in a non-public location with a single student

● NEVER be unclothed in a student’s presence

All interaction with any student *outside* the ministry program MUST:

● Occur in a PUBLIC place (example: Starbucks) OR include another adult (2 Adult Rule)

● Occur with students of the SAME GENDER, unless within a supervised ministry event ● MUST NOT occur in the home of the staff member/volunteer or student unless with more than one staff member AND approved in advance by the Family Ministry Director

REPORT ALL POLICY VIOLATIONS OR *GROOMING BEHAVIORS* TO A SUPERVISOR.

St. Patrick Presbyterian Church reports all allegations and suspicions of child abuse and neglect to appropriate authorities.

*© MinistrySafe 6001 River Oaks Blvd Suite 400 All Rights Reserved Fort Worth, TX 76114 www.MinistrySafe.com 817-737-SAFE (7233)*