

## **CHILDREN & STUDENT MINISTRY ENVIRONMENTS AT THE CHAPEL**

Safety and security of children, families, volunteers, and staff is a priority in these environments. Measures with volunteer onboarding, policies while children and students are in care, and active security presence are consistently reviewed to ensure best practice is being followed.

Within the last two years, we actively seek feedback and expert recommendations for our volunteer onboarding processes. Volunteers who express interest in our Children or Student Ministry environments must complete the following components:

- Submit an application for serving
- Provide personal and professional references
- Complete a background check; which is updated every three years
- Complete an interview
- Participate in an abuse awareness training
- Receive safety and security training of all policies within the respective environment
- Participate in any ongoing or updated trainings provided

Volunteers are required to complete each of these components prior to serving within a space involving children and students. The abuse awareness training increases understanding and raises awareness of sexual abuse. Our safety and security policies include the use of cameras in all spaces, a security guard present within the environments, and a check-in system to verify guardians during pick-up times. Part of that training also includes environment specific areas regarding strict policies pertaining to bathroom usage, children to volunteer ratios, and building safety.

We continue to collaborate with training companies and experts such as Ministry Safe to ensure we are well informed to provide and create the best environments for our church family. Along with improvements to our volunteer onboarding process a year ago, we also formed a Child Safety Team. This team assists to ensure all safety and security measures are being followed, continue to remain updated on best practice and trainings available from outside resources, as well as review any report that is made involving a child or student.