

SOMERSET CHRISTIAN CAMPS
BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Reviewed July 2019

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1. CARE, LEARNING and PLAY

- Somerset Christian Camp has a strong Christian focus, demonstrated through daily bible teaching. This is split between two main activities – small group bible study within tent groups in the morning, and whole camp sessions in the on-site Church in the evenings.
- Somerset Christian Camps also aims to develop children's self-esteem through the volunteers' positive attitudes and examples as positive role-models. All children at camp are encouraged to find things that they enjoy from the wide variety of activities that we provide. These include arts and crafts, sports, swimming, team building exercises, toys and games and off-site visits to areas of interest.
- At Camp we encourage children to adopt Christian morals and values, as demonstrated by the members of staff.
- At the beginning of Camp, the campers decide together upon appropriate rules for the week. These are influenced by Commy and Adgy to ensure that they are fair and consistent and appropriate to the children's levels of understanding.
- A range of activities are included at Camp to provide sufficient opportunities to play and learn independently and co-operatively, and for activities which require more adult support and supervision. These include times for energetic play, and times for quiet reflection.

2. BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

Somerset Christian Camps believes that children and adults flourish in an ordered environment in which everyone knows what is expected of them and children are free to develop their play and learning without fear of being hurt or hindered by anyone else. At Camp, the named persons who are particularly in charge of behaviour management are 'Commy' and 'Adgy'.

We aim to work towards a situation in which children can develop self-discipline and self-esteem in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement.

2.1 In Order to Achieve This

- Ground rules of Camp will be discussed and agreed with the Campers at the start of Camp.
- All volunteers on Camp will ensure that the rules are applied consistently.
- All volunteers will provide a positive role model for the children.
- All volunteers in the Camp will praise and endorse desirable behaviour such as kindness, willingness to share etc.
- Positive steps will be taken to avoid a situation in which a camper receives adult attention only in return for undesirable behaviour.
- Unacceptable behaviour is: name-calling, hitting, biting, pushing, aggressive behaviour towards another child or adult, and bad language which may include racial abuse or abuse about a person.
- Camp utilizes a system of points that feed into a week-long inter-tent competition. This ensures that children can be rewarded for good behaviour, as well as encouraging full participation.

2.2 When Children Behave in Unacceptable Ways

- Physical punishment will neither be used nor threatened; we are a 'no smacking environment'.
- Volunteers will not shout or raise their voices in a threatening way.
- Campers who behave in an unacceptable way will be given one-to-one adult support in seeing what is wrong and working towards a better pattern. This may be achieved with 'time out' with an adult, or redirection to another activity/area of the camp site.
- In cases of serious misbehaviour such as racial or other abuse, the unacceptability of the behaviour will be made clear immediately, but by means of explanation rather than personal blame.
- In cases of unacceptable behaviour it will always be made clear to the camper that it is the behaviour and not the camper that is unwelcome.
- Recurring problems will be tackled by the co-ordinating team. Parents will be kept informed of incidents of a more serious nature.
- Somerset Christian Camps will exclude if unacceptable behaviour continues; this will be a last resort.
- Volunteers are aware that some kinds of unacceptable behaviour may arise from a Camper's special needs.

2.3 Physical Intervention

- Physical intervention will only be used in the extreme prevention of accident, injury or damage to property. In the event of this happening, incidents will be recorded on a Physical Intervention form, and parents will be required to sign it at the end of the Camp to acknowledge the incident happening.
- If any volunteer feels as if they have insufficient knowledge in dealing with children's behaviour, then appropriate training can be provided prior to Camp commencing.