

# CREATING A SAFE ONLINE CATECHISM EXPERIENCE:

The aim is for the Catechism Experience to be a God-honouring, encouraging and safe environment for all participants. Hence the following Safe Church PCV requirements and information for participants.

The online platform hosting our group feed is called Faithlife. For more information go to [faithlife.com](http://faithlife.com)

The leader of the Catechism Experience is Andrew Edmonds, the Youth Ministries Director for Presbyterian Youth Victoria. Andrew is joined by Louise Griffith and Suzy Vines to help as moderators of the Catechism Experience on the online platform. All three have fulfilled Safe Church training and hold current Working With Children Checks.

## ALL PARENTS AND PARTICIPANTS PLEASE NOTE AND OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING:

1. We have planned for the Catechism Experience to be a closed but communal group that all ages can participate with. A good mindset to have is to act online as you would offline. Interact with people as you would 'face to face'. Keep in mind 'the God test' - is this conversation/behaviour honouring to God? And also - 'the Parent test' - if parents were hearing or seeing this, would they be comfortable with this interaction?
2. Please know that any child aged zero to twelve must participate through a family registration and account, with parent signed permission (via the registration process). Any posts and activity on the platform should be done with ongoing parental involvement, monitoring and approval. Parents need to guide and help children understand how to correctly use the platform.
3. Individuals aged 13 and above can participate through their own account, if their parent(s) permit this, but should create a user name that only identifies their first name. The registration process will ask the participant to confirm that their parent(s) have given permission for them to use their own account.
4. User names on the online platform should not identify any child aged zero to twelve, and we recommend the use of a family user name to represent the group of individuals participating on the family account.
5. Parents are responsible for supervising their children on the platform.
6. Teenagers (age thirteen to eighteen) who have their own platform accounts should only engage the platform in an open area where other people can see their activity.
7. Direct or private messaging between Catechism Experience participants on the Faithlife platform is not permitted. Never attempt to message a child or young person 'one on one' and don't use any direct message features to contact any other individual on the platform. All streams of communication MUST happen in an open and public manner only in the Catechism Experience group feed. The moderators will be monitoring this throughout the experience. Failure to comply will result in immediate termination from the group and the forfeiting of any Catechism progress and subsequent rewards.

8. If you receive a direct message from any participant please don't reply to it and contact the Catechism moderators immediately (Call 0492 906 245).

9. Cyber bullying in anyway will not be tolerated. Moderators hold the right to remove accounts as deemed necessary. More info about cyber bullying can be found at [www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au).

10. We are private (closed group) but public (everything happens in the group feed). Everyone should seek to be transparent in our online ministry.

11. During the 16 week timeframe that the group will be open for participation the Catechism moderators will be frequently monitoring the posts and contributions to the group feed. Moderators hold the right to delete posts as deemed necessary.

12. The posting of photos or video content on the group feed is the responsibility and property of the participant. The content won't be taken, changed, redistributed or reposted by the moderators without the written permission from the posting individual/party. However, any inappropriate content or content which the moderators deem to be inappropriate or unedifying will be removed by the moderators.

13. If parents or participants have any concerns regarding inappropriate behaviours, posts or communications taking place via the Catechism Experience please contact the moderators as per above so this can be resolved as swiftly and smoothly as possible.

14. Below are provided links regarding cyber safety to help parents and individuals make well informed decisions:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

[https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CSA\\_CHILD-PROTECT-A4-FACT-SHEET\\_33-V2.pdf](https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CSA_CHILD-PROTECT-A4-FACT-SHEET_33-V2.pdf)

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/big-issues/cyberbullying>

[https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CSA\\_CHILD-PROTECT-A4-FACT-SHEET\\_2\\_3.pdf](https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CSA_CHILD-PROTECT-A4-FACT-SHEET_2_3.pdf)