

HEART OF GOD CHURCH YOUTH POLICY

In Heart of God Church, we believe that youths are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but they are the leaders of today. We demonstrate this belief in youths by providing a nurturing environment for them to learn and grow, training and equipping them to serve others, as well as teaching habits and inculcating values that empower them to live out their potential.

We also believe in **partnering with parents and educators** in order to develop the youths **holistically** with not only spiritual values but also **pro-family** and **pro-education values**.

PRO-FAMILY VALUES

Family is one of six Core Values which our church upholds and promotes. We believe in **promoting strong family ties**, such as honouring and respecting one's parents, loving and spending time with the family, as well as encouraging communication and understanding between generations.

Section 2.2 of our Youth Policy outlines examples of how we uphold these Pro-Family Values. These examples include:

2.2.1 preaching sermons on wholesome and family-related topics such as "Respecting and Honouring Parents"

2.2.2 planning family-friendly service timings and calendar

Our services are held on weekend afternoons (1.30-3.30pm / 4.30-6.30pm on Saturdays and 1.30 - 3.30 pm on Sundays) so that youths can spend time and have lunches/dinners with their parents. We do not hold services during the Chinese New Year season to allow youths to spend time with their family.

2.2.3 celebrating events such as Mother's Day and Father's Day

2.2.4 organising programmes and activities to bridge the generation gap

2.2.5 teaching our youths to love and appreciate their parents and siblings

PRO-EDUCATION VALUES

Education is one of our six Core Values. We believe that **spirituality and academic excellence are synonymous**. Something is amiss if a student is active in church but is doing badly in school. As such, we have many initiatives to promote academic excellence amongst students and to ensure a healthy balance between studies, church life and family life.

Section 3 of our Youth Policy outlines our initiatives to promote Pro-Education values. More information on our Academic Excellence Programme is also available on www.hogcae.com.

Heart of God Church Youth Policy - Schools

At Heart of God Church, we understand and respect the government policy that in multi-racial and multi-religious Singapore, schools are a common space for students of all races, religions and backgrounds to mix freely.

As such, Heart of God Church has a detailed Schools Policy in place to provide guidelines and clear directions for our volunteers, leaders and staff, especially those who are in schools or who work or teach in schools. **This policy is specifically applicable to primary and secondary schools, junior colleges and ITEs.**

Our Schools Policy states that “While we do not deny or deliberately hide the fact that we are Christians, we must nevertheless be sensitive and respectful in our words and deeds to avoid causing offence to other religions.”

Practical examples of activities forbidden in secular schools are also outlined in Section 2.4:

2.4 We recognise that any form of hard-sell of Christianity may cause offence and this is a situation we are to avoid. As such, **we forbid the following activities in secular schools:**

2.4.1 organising of official religious activities such as conducting Bible study sessions

2.4.2 distributing of evangelistic tracts

2.4.3 unsolicited sharing of the gospel message of salvation

As part of our commitment to promote the overall well-being of youths and children, Heart of God Church also has a detailed Safety Policy and Codes of Conduct pertaining to the protection and safety of the youths and children who attend our church. These include the training and education of volunteers, leaders and staff to provide clear guidelines and direction in matters involving children and youth.

We also have a Community Policy in place that details our guidelines to uphold the values in our Singapore Pledge and in the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act (Cap 167A).

*** Policy Review: Heart of God Church Policies are regularly reviewed and updated in line with any legislation changes in Singapore or as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.*