



**Behavior Policy for Grades 6 to 12 Youth Ministry (CYM and SHOCK)
August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022**

Discipline is defined as the training that develops self-control, character, and orderly conduct as well as acceptance of authority. The Youth Ministry staff at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, including the DRE, all catechists, and all parent volunteers, have the responsibility to set behavior/discipline codes to maintain good order in the Youth Ministry program. The youth are entitled to learn and grow in their faith in an environment which promotes respect for self, others, and property. Catechists, parents, and students are called to cooperate to develop mature and responsible individuals capable of self-control. It is essential that all students give the catechists their full participation.

A student's full participation in promoting a respectful environment means that:

- No student is permitted to leave the campus during class time, unless accompanied by an adult. Students must be checked out by the DRE (Debbie Greene) or a person designed specifically to assist during a particular youth ministry activity or event.
- No student is permitted to use a cell phone or other electronics in class unless instructed to do so by the catechist in charge as part of the lesson. If a cell phone or other electronic device is in use when a student has not been instructed by their adult leader, the adult leader may take the phone or device until the end of class. If the student refuses to give up their phone or device when requested, the student will be removed from class and their parents called to pick them up immediately.*
- Everyone is to be treated with courtesy and with respect. This includes other students, adult leaders, volunteers, staff, and parents.
- Students will come to Youth Ministry activities and events prepared to learn and willing to participate in all activities.
- Students will not be allowed to interfere with the learning and participation of other students.
- Students are to refrain from foul language and other rude behavior.
- Students must not bully or harass others.
- Students are to respect the environment and materials they are using. Students are to respect the belongings of others.
- Students may have food or drinks at the discretion of the adult leadership, provided the food or drinks do not cause a distraction.

Those who do not adhere to the guidelines listed above for promoting a respectful environment will be subject to the following:

- First time: The adult leader will give a warning to the student or students.
- Second time: The adult leader will call the DRE to give a warning. The second warning may include time sitting outside of the activity location, which could result in the student being awarded an unexcused absence. At this stage, the parent or guardian of the student will be notified.*
- Third time: The parent must accompany the student for a meeting involving the student, the parent(s), and the DRE to discuss alternatives. Lack of improvement in the student's behavior may result in a request for the parent to accompany the student to each youth ministry session or a request to teach the student at home. Students taught at home will be required to complete the same materials as those in class, with parent instruction, and may be required to take an examination on the material.

* **Note** that when a student is removed from class, the class may count as an unexcused absence. Students in Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation are allowed no more than 4 unexcused absences per year as they are in preparation for the celebration of the sacrament. If the student has more than 4 unexcused absences per year in these two years, he/she may require an additional year of preparation before celebrating the sacrament.



Study + Pray + Witness





Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Religious Education

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Appropriate behavior and common courtesy to the catechist, volunteers assisting with the RE and YM programs, and fellow students is expected at every grade level. The following summary is to be signed and returned with the registration.

It is important to read the Behavior Policy prior to reviewing this signature page.

Behavior problems will result in the following response:

- First time: The adult leader will give a warning to the student or students.
- Second time: The adult leader will call the DRE to give a warning. The second warning may include time sitting outside of the activity location, which could result in the student being awarded an unexcused absence. At this stage, the parent or guardian of the student will be notified.*
- Third time: The parent must accompany the student for a meeting involving the student, the parent(s), and the DRE to discuss alternatives. Lack of improvement in the student's behavior may result in a request for the parent to accompany the student to each youth ministry session or a request to teach the student at home. Students taught at home will be required to complete the same materials as those in class, with parent instruction, and may be required to take an examination on the material.
- Lack of improvement in the student's behavior may result in a request for the parent to accompany the student to each session or a request to teach the student at home. Students taught at home will be required to complete the same materials as those in class, with parent instruction, and may be required to take an examination on the material.

Severe misbehavior (foul language, aggressive/inappropriate behavior) will not be tolerated in the classroom.

* **Note** that when a student is removed from a session, the session may be an unexcused absence. Students in Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation are allowed no more than 4 unexcused absences per year as they are in preparation for the celebration of the sacrament. If the student has more than 4 unexcused absences per year in these two years, he/she may require an additional year of preparation before celebrating the sacrament.

I have read and understand the behavior policy and have discussed it with my child.

Parent's signature

Date