

Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation at White Plains
Religious Education Behavior Policy

Approved by the Religious Education Council, March 1, 2015

The Religious Education ministry at CUUC strives to create thoughtful communication and connections in a climate that promotes and affirms the values of our seven UU Principles and supports the CUUC mission. The ultimate objective is for each adult, each youth and each child to experience a positive and rewarding learning experience.

Children and youth are expected to behave in a manner that encourages cooperation, responsibility, and respect for themselves and others.

- During the children's worship service, children are expected to enter quietly and respectfully and to take a seat. During the service, they are expected to pay attention, and show an attitude of worship and learning.
- In the classroom, children and youth are expected to be considerate of others, to share, and to participate in activities, as well as to observe the rules in their class covenant.
- During coffee hour and on other occasions, children and youth are expected to be considerate of others, to respect CUUC property and personal belongings, to clean up after their activities, and not to disturb meetings.

For those children and youth who find it challenging to behave in a manner reflecting these ideals, the following steps will be taken:

- If a child or youth is disruptive during children's worship, a special activity or in the classroom, a teacher (parent volunteer) will attempt to first redirect the child's or youth's attention.
- If this does not have the desired behavioral impact, the teacher will remove the child or youth from the classroom or activity and bring the child or youth to the DLRE, an RE Council member, or other adult overseeing the activity.
 - The DLRE or Council member will talk about the disruptive behavior with the child or youth and try to work out a reasonable way in which the child or youth can return to the class or activity and continue learning alongside others in a positive manner.
- In the event the disruptive behavior continues the child or youth will again be brought to the DRE or Council member who will bring the child or youth to their parent or guardian.
 - The parent or guardian will have the option of keeping their child or youth with them for the remainder of the activity or the parent and child or youth may return to the activity *together* for the remainder of the program time as appropriate.
 - The next time the child or youth is in an RE activity, the parent will be asked to be accessible in case he or she is needed.

Behavior that disrupts CUUC activities or potentially threatens the safety of any adult, youth or child is also subject to the CUUC policy regarding Unacceptable Behavior.

It is the goal of the RE Council that every child or youth in our ministry feels welcome and respected. If a child or youth has difficulty meeting these Behavior Guidelines we welcome any input from parents or guardians regarding ways we can assist the child or youth in reaching these goals. Please let us know your child's individual learning style and any physical or emotional challenges that may affect behavior in our programs. It is our intention to support each child or youth as a part of our family.