

Dear parents,

Over the past couple of weeks at CBC we've had the opportunity to take a breath and come out of the "shock" phase of all the changes prompted by COVID-19. One of the strongest feelings I've had in this time is a sense of gratitude for the way that God has brought us through all this – not just surviving but thriving in the midst of the challenge.

I have also felt an immense sense of pride at the way our youth leaders, led by Jesse, responded in such quick and creative fashion to make sure CBC Youth didn't miss a beat. From the first YouTube live night, to the movie night, live Slack events, trivia night and holiday challenges, the team have done an incredible job serving our youth.

We've now had opportunity to plan a whole term of fully online CBC Youth for Term 2. I'm hoping you saw the program Jesse emailed out on Monday. It really looks great and I hope you will encourage your kids to be part of it each week. Nothing can replace being physically together, but there is still the opportunity to have fun and meaningfully connect each week, both on Friday nights and in our Youth Discipleship Groups (for Youth 2.0).

One of the other things we've needed to do is review our Child Protection policies and practices in light of the changed circumstances. The fundamental principles stay the same, for example all leaders having valid NSW Working with Children Checks and having completed the safe ministry training, but there are some additional practices to be put in place in relation to online gatherings:

1. In order to avoid any unwanted (adult) guests, Friday Night Youth Zoom meetings will require a password to access, which will be emailed at the start of the week.
2. In order to ensure youth are not one-on-one with a leader, youth will be held in the Zoom "waiting room" until at least two leaders and/or two youth are present, and the meetings ended with at least three people present. If some one-on-one time may be helpful between a youth and a leader, this would be arranged separately with the involvement of myself and a parent.
3. In order to respect the privacy of the youth, youth cameras and microphones will be automatically set to off for the main section of Friday Night Youth, but may be turned on for the "breakout" discussion groups that follow (and would be on for Youth Discipleship Groups).
4. In order to ensure appropriate behaviour during the meetings, the youth will be regularly informed and reminded of their responsibilities as participants, such as:
 - To be respectful in your communication to all who are in the meeting;
 - To wear appropriate clothing at all times;
 - Not to share inappropriate content of any kind, including what is in your background;
 - Not to take pictures or record anyone without their permission;
 - To not pass on personal information such as phone numbers or email addresses; and
 - To be inclusive and welcoming to all who are participating.
5. Some online meetings may be recorded, and the recordings kept securely for internal compliance purposes.

The final additional practice is for a parent/guardian of each youth to complete a permission form in relation to their participation in the online activities of CBC Youth, as these were not covered (or anticipated!) in the original youth permission form at the start of the year. To complete the form, please click on this link to go to the Youth page on the CBC website.

We continue to welcome your input and any helpful feedback you might have about CBC Youth, whether based on your own observations or what you hear from your kids. Please don't hesitate to contact myself (acameron@ecbc.org.au) or Jesse (jmawson@ecbc.org.au) at any time.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Cameron

Associate Pastor