

WhatsApp Policy & Code of Conduct (for all participants)

INTRODUCTION

This policy aims to outline the need, the operation, administration, and principles of conduct behind the use of WhatsApp.

Sussex Street Christian Centre offer two WhatsApp groups; SSCC - Friends Room (*SFR*) and SSCC - Prayer Room (*SPR*). By design, these groups are to serve different purposes and therefore have different needs of administration and even access. In short, the SFR is an open group to anyone who wishes to join in general conversation. This room is open to friends of current members who have been suggested to and vetted by the administrators (in which there are two - Trevor Casey & Glyn Watson. Conversely, SPR is restricted to only Members of SSCC for the sole use of Prayer needs and requests (*this is to safeguard our members and give a safe space for personal in-house prayer, thus upholding the burden of responsibility to our member's confidentiality*).

By nature and content, each Group will have their code of conduct in which this policy will outline later.

RED-FLAGS

Confidentiality

WhatsApp is a Facebook-owned application and service. Part of the T&C's at first sign up to the service you agree to Facebook having access to your phone number and anyone in whom you are in a group with known or not known having access to it. Therefore, this must be stated and understood by anyone accepting our invitation to join SFR.

As the SFR group was formed in April 2020, the changes will affect the current participants. However, as stated in the CBM (31st Jan 2021) if you choose to stay in this group, you are stating your understanding of the changes and its implications and agree with the new code of conduct.

Any new potential member will be asked to read, agree, and sign the code of conduct document before their admittance to the administrators' group. This confidentiality issue does not necessarily affect the SPR due to the majority of church members (via a signed GDPR document back in 2018) for the sharing of their contact details in a church directory.

GROUP FUNCTION

It must be noted that some might opt out and leave the SFR to join SPR. Therefore, specific posts will be posted to both groups so that everyone receives what they need to connect and participate in church events or resources.

SSCC - FRIENDS ROOM	SSCC - PRAYER ROOM
Social Activities Advertising Open church related events - Open Prayer Events - Church Services - Pastor Hour - Open Bible Studies - Reflections - Sharing Recipes etc. and Pleasantries - General announcements	Confidential prayer needs & Requests Advertising Closed church related events - Closed Prayer Events - Church Service - Pastor Hour - Member only Announcements

SFR - CODE OF CONDUCT

- No personal attacks
- Don't say things to people in a way that you wouldn't want them said to you
- Ensure you have permission to share photos of 'People' If there are any children in the photo. Make sure you have the parent (and child's) consent to share.
- No offensive language, bullying, intimidation, hate speech or inappropriate images. The Phrase WWJD "what would Jesus do?" Is a good one to adopt. If your answer is **NO...?** Then don't say or do it.
- Respect the privacy of others.
- Do not share anyone's personal information with anyone outside of the group (unless permitted to do so).
- **If you are a Sussex Street Christian Centre member**, remember you are representing and an ambassador for Christ first and the church.
- What you post could be misunderstood: Emotions, attitudes and tone are hard to convey in print. Therefore, please double check your phraseology.
- Before posting about an individual, ask yourself: 'Is this my story to tell?'
- If you have a grievance with a post or individual, do not take the matter into your own hands. Please contact the administrators - Trevor Casey or Glyn Watson **privately**.
- If you have a grievance with either administrator contact the other.
- If you have a grievance with both administrators, contact the church secretary - Richard Hardway.

SPR - CODE OF CONDUCT

- An administrator will remove any post considered trivial.
- Any prayer request given in this group with your permission will be edited and sent on the email prayer chain by our Prayer Co-ordinator Penny Livingstone.
- Make sure you have permission to share a prayer request ("is this my story to tell?"), make sure you aren't oversharing the detail.
- Do respect the closed nature of the group in terms of privacy.
- Anything written in the group is not to leave the group's confines or shared with any other group without consent.
- Do not share anyone's personal information with anyone outside of the group (unless permitted to do so).
- The group is closed to **church members only**.
- **Remember being a member of Sussex Street Christian Centre**, you are family, representing and an ambassador for Christ and the church to one and other in love.
- There is to be **NO** offensive language, bullying, intimidation or hate speech. A suggested principle would be to ask yourself "Would Christ say it?" if the answer is, **He wouldn't?** Then don't say it.
- If you have a grievance with a post or individual, do not take the matter into your own hands. Please contact the administrators - Trevor Casey or Glyn Watson **privately**.
- If you have a grievance with either administrator contact the other.
- If you have a grievance with both administrators, contact the church secretary - Richard Hardway

INFRINGEMENTS

Anyone who fails to adhere to this code of conduct, the post and situation will be reviewed. Depending on the severity of the infringement, they will either receive a warning or remove the person from the group.

In both warning or removal cases, a conversation will be had between admin and offender explaining the situation.

If in the case of an individual's removal, a written statement will also be sent to them.