**APPENDIX 1.**

**Use of Snapchat for Youth Group Communication**

Snapchat has emerged as a leading social media platform predominantly used by young people worldwide. Its popularity stems from its unique features, user-friendly interface, and ability to facilitate quick and direct communication. Embracing Snapchat as one of our official communication channels for our youth group, enables us to reach out to our members in a medium where they feel most comfortable and engaged.

The app will be used only to facilitate conversations via the ‘group-chat’ facility; and where messages stay present / do not disappear after a set period of time. It will not be used for any one-to-one conversations with the youth. Everything will be visible within the group chat and that group will be monitored by 4 adults on a continuous basis. The ‘Snap-Map’ feature will be disabled for all members of the group chat; so no live-tracking of locations will be available.

One of the key advantages of using Snapchat group-chat is the ability to easily and quickly check-in on our young people’s wellbeing; as well as easily communicating upcoming events, meet-ups, changes to programme and/or cancellations.

To ensure the utmost safety and appropriateness within the Snapchat group, a set of rules and guidelines has been established as follows:

**Acceptance of membership**: Only approved youth group members will be allowed to join the official Snapchat group.

**Moderation and supervision**: Four named adults (currently Catherine Redgrave , Georgie Hygate, Helen Miller and Sochi Ezeanowai) will actively monitor the group, ensuring that all interactions and conversations are appropriate, respectful, and align with our youth group's values. We will be promptly removing any content that violates the guidelines or compromises the safety and well-being of the members.

**Mutual Respect**: All members must treat each other with respect and refrain from using inappropriate language, engaging in cyberbullying, or discriminatory behavior.

**Confidentiality**: Members are reminded to maintain confidentiality and respect the privacy of their peers, refraining from sharing any sensitive or personal information without explicit consent.

**Reporting mechanism**: We have emphasized the importance of reporting any suspicious or inappropriate behavior to the designated adults immediately.

**Code of Conduct Acknowledgement**: All participants, along with their parents or guardians, will be required to sign a code of conduct acknowledgment, wherein they commit to following the set rules and guidelines.

**GUIDELINES & CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT FOR CAS TEENS SNAPCHAT GROUP**

At the outset everyone (including their parents) must consent prior to being put into the snapchat Group as their username will be visible to all within the group.

This is a church youth group. It has been set up by Sochi Ezeanowai, who will act as administrator together with Catherine Redgrave & Georgie Hygate.

This group is intended as a convenient way to distribute information to the teens quickly and efficiently and for teens to communicate easily and safely with each other regarding CAS events, sessions and activities.

The group is set up in a spirit of informal communication amongst a group of persons sharing the same common interest. In keeping with that spirit, it is not the intention that there ought to be an overly legalistic attitude towards its operation. However, the following guidelines shall be adhered to:

* The group is not to be used to discuss non-CAS teens related issues.
* The group should not be used to express personal opinions or post private messages.
* Any opinions expressed are the opinions of individual members. Group administrators are not responsible for any comments posted by individual members of the group.
* It is not compulsory to respond to every post.
* There is no room for any inappropriate posts including using inappropriate language, insulting messages, voicing grievances with the teens group or with individual members of the group.
* Only the group administrators can add new members to the group.
* In the event that there is a breach of any of the rules, the group administrator reserves the right to remove the transgressor from the group.
* Participation is not obligatory and if you join, you have the option of leaving. We would hope that all participants can see the usefulness of the group and will cooperative accordingly.
* Respect everyone’s privacy – being part of this group requires mutual trust & respect.

Child Name & Signature …………………………………………………………………..

Parents Name & Signature …………………………………………………………………..

Date …………………………………………………………………..