

New Entry Rules on Friday Evenings

Beginning This Week

Our number one priority on Friday evenings is to create a safe and inviting space for students and their families. Over the last 6 years I have watched this atmosphere become something very special that we are now known for among other neighbouring youth ministries. One of the main reasons this is a reality is because of our volunteers.

Unfortunately, in the final four weeks before the Christmas break there have been multiple instances of disrespect and bullying from parents with our volunteers at the door. Volunteers who were abiding by the policies and systems that the Pastoral and Admin teams at WPA have put into place in order to keep everyone safe.

Due to these challenges, and the ongoing safety concerns present around our building on Friday nights, we are implementing some changes.

1. **ZERO tolerance of bullying at the door from parents or individuals** toward any volunteer, student or individual. Bullies and their family will be asked to leave and not allowed to return on Fridays until I (P. Andrew) deem it appropriate.
2. **Doors will no longer open before 7pm.** The front door will be propped open from 7-9pm during our program. In the past we have been gracious by opening doors 10 minutes early at 6:50pm but since this is creating confusion about when we begin, doors will no longer open before 7pm.
3. **Entry outside of program time will ONLY be granted by myself (Pastor Andrew)** or the designated volunteer hall monitor scheduled that evening. There is a list of people who are expected at certain times throughout the evening before 7pm. Any individual not expected OR has not communicated lateness to me will need to wait until our doors open at 7pm to enter.

If for some reason you need to drop your student off early, please make arrangements with them to wait somewhere safe nearby and not at the church doors. We run multiple programs and volunteer teams on Friday nights, each being responsible for different things. In order to properly prepare for, ensure safety, and successfully run each program on Friday we cannot permit entry to anyone we are not expecting before 7pm.

If you wish to speak with me about any of these changes more, please feel free to contact me through the church office or by replying to this email.

- Pastor Andrew