

Behavior Policy:

The Religious Education ministry at the Unitarian Church in Westport strives to create thoughtful communication and connections in a climate which promotes and affirms the values of our seven UU Principles. In this way, each adult and child/youth will 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. For those children/youth who find it challenging to behave in a manner conducive to these ideals, the following steps will be taken:

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

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