Children are God’s gift to us! Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children” (Luke 18:15-17NLT). AECYCM is determined to provide resources, training and mentoring opportunities to our children and youth leaders. At the heart of such a mission is securing a safe and secure environment for them to grow into the person God intended them to be.

Recommendations For Virtual Meetings And Calls

**Selecting a suitable platform**

- There are many platforms available, select one that best suits your needs.
- Some available options: Zoom, Google meet, Facebook Live
- Be knowledgeable of the platform you are using.
- Consult and practice using the platform before engaging in a scheduled meeting.
- Depending on the platform you choose, you can limit the possibility of having hackers or other unwelcome guests from joining your meeting by not publicly advertising the event via social media or on your website. This can be done by allowing participants to access your events by invitation only, and by requiring a unique passcode to join the meeting.

**Meeting reminders**

- Background clearance requirements are still in place for those working with minors even on a virtual platform. Be sure to satisfy all the requirements for Sterling Volunteers.
- Two-adult policy – All virtual meetings that involve children should have two adults or more present.
- Avoid hosting one-on-one virtual sessions with minors
- It is best practice to ensure that parents are aware of scheduled meetings and they may also be present, if necessary.
- Refrain from posting pictures or screenshots of the virtual meetings on social media without the written consent of the minor’s parent[s]. Keep a copy of the written consent for your records.
- When attempting to make contact with a minor it is best to send messages to parents or in a group chat which may also include other adults.
- If a child asks for additional information offline, have the parent on the call and/or an additional adult. Text messaging on a one-on-one basis is discouraged.
- Chat Control – Meeting hosts should ensure that participants don’t have the ability to do private chats. This is to prevent bullying or inappropriate chatter between the children. With everyone chat enabled the host will be able to monitor what is said in the chatroom.
- Require individuals who are participating to be dressed appropriately and be at a location that is approved by their parents.

We are encouraging leaders to use all necessary precautions to ensure that every child is safe in a virtual environment as we continue to minister to our children.