

THE BIBLE HOME TUTORS

Child Protection Policy

What every tutor agrees to before teaching any child

Version 1.0

Signed by every tutor. Available to every parent on request.

Our commitment

This Policy is aligned with the UNICEF Child Protection Strategy 2021–2030, whose vision is centred in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and whose goals are drawn from the Sustainable Development Goals. Child protection is the prevention of, and the response to, exploitation, abuse, neglect, harmful practices and violence against children.

We also hold ourselves to the law of the country in which we work. The Child Rights Act 2003 is the principal domestic instrument on child protection in Nigeria, and it is given effect in Lagos State by the Child's Rights Law 2007. Where the standards below and those laws differ, the higher standard applies.

The principle running through all of them, and through everything that follows, is that the best interests of the child come first.

Why this policy is short

A policy nobody has read protects nobody. This one is four pages, it contains eight rules, and every tutor signs it before meeting a single child.

The rules are not guidance. They do not bend for a family who asks, for a tutor in a hurry, or for a child who is disappointed. Each one exists because somewhere, some time, its absence allowed a child to be harmed.

They protect the child first. They also protect you. A tutor who has always followed these rules has an answer if anything is ever alleged against them. A tutor who has not, does not.

The eight rules

RULE 1 A responsible adult is in the house

Not necessarily in the room. In the house, awake, and aware that you are there.

If you arrive and there is no adult, you do not teach. You telephone the coordinator. You will not be blamed, and you will still be paid for the journey.

A parent cannot give you permission to break this rule. It is not theirs to give.

RULE 2 The door stays open

Every session, every time. Open, not ajar.

If a family shows you into a room and closes the door, open it and explain kindly that it is our rule rather than your preference. No parent has ever objected to that.

If the only quiet room in the house is out of earshot of the adults, teach somewhere less quiet.

RULE 3 Nothing is secret

You never agree to keep something from a child's parents. Not once, not about anything small, not to build trust.

An adult who has kept one harmless secret with a child has taught that child that secrets between them are normal. Anyone who later wishes to harm that child has had the groundwork laid for them.

When a child says do not tell anyone, the answer is: "I can't promise that. If it matters, I might need to tell your mum or dad, because keeping you safe is my job. But I will always tell you first."

RULE 4 You never contact a child directly

You do not hold a child's telephone number. You do not message a child. You do not follow or accept a child on social media.

Everything goes through the parent, inside the app, where it is recorded.

If a child contacts you somehow, you do not reply. You tell the coordinator and the parent the same day.

RULE 5 Physical contact stays where anyone can see it

A hand on the shoulder in front of a parent is fine. A child on your lap is not, at any age.

The test is simple: nothing that would look wrong to a stranger watching through the window.

RULE 6 No photographs, no gifts, no money

You do not photograph a child. Not for the app, not for a testimonial, not for your own records. Photographs come only from a parent, with their written consent.

You do not give a child a gift or money, and you do not accept one from them. If a family wishes to give you something, it goes through the coordinator.

RULE 7 You report, and you report the same day

If a child tells you that somebody is hurting them: listen, do not lead, do not promise silence, write down their words the same day, and report it that day.

You do not decide whether it is serious enough. That is not your job, and carrying it alone is not fair to you.

You do not confront the person the child names. You do not investigate. You do not discuss it with other tutors or church members.

Reports reach the coordinators and an independent adult outside this ministry at the same time.

RULE 8 Sensitive subjects are never taught alone

Any session touching the body, sexuality or purity is taught with a parent present in the room, working from the script we supply.

There is no tutor discretion here and there are no exceptions.

What happens if a concern is raised about you

It will be taken seriously, and so will you.

- The coordinators and an independent adviser outside this ministry are told at the same time. Nobody can quietly decide it was probably nothing.
- You may be paused from teaching while it is looked into. That is not a finding against you.
- You will be told what has been said, unless doing so would put a child at risk.
- What we find, and what we decide, is written down and kept.

Two serious concerns raised about the same tutor pause that tutor automatically, without waiting for anyone to be available. This is deliberate, and it applies to everybody equally.

What you can expect from us

- We will never ask you to teach a child alone in an empty house.
 - We will never ask you to keep a safeguarding matter quiet.
 - We will pay you for a journey you made in good faith, even if the session could not go ahead.
 - We will tell you when a rule has changed, and why.
 - We will not give your telephone number to a parent, or theirs to you, outside the app.
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Your signature

By signing, you confirm that you have read these eight rules, that you understand them, and that you agree to follow them without exception while you teach any child through The Bible Home Tutors.

You also confirm that you understand that breaking Rules 1, 2, 3, 4 or 7 will end your work here, whatever the circumstances and however well meant.

Name _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed electronically in the app, this record is kept with the date, the time, and the version of the policy you agreed to.