

Social Media Policy for work with children and young people 2018-19

This policy is to be applied alongside the existing St Mark’s Safeguarding Children policy.

If using a social media platform to communicate with young people for church work, only a designated platform that is solely for church work should be used.

Any such social media platform for church purposes must take the form of a closed group, with admission by group leaders only.

Social media platform age restrictions should be enforced.

Social media platforms should only be used to communicate general information –e.g. meeting times, activities etc. Personal conversations can take place in a forum but private messaging should NOT take place as all contact and communications with children and young people should be visible- i.e. open and transparent.

Each social media platform should be monitored daily by a named group administrator. If content is posted that gives cause for any concern about an individual, the administrator should inform the incumbent and the Safe Church Officer. If content is posted that is inappropriate, a screenshot must be taken and kept together with a written record before it is deleted immediately and the incident reported to the incumbent and the childrens' safeguarding officer. When the named administrator is unable to monitor the page on a daily basis, a named deputy will do so.

All new means of communication via social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Google+, SnapChat, Slack, blog or any other social media platform) must be approved by working group under delegation from the PCC before being opened.

Church workers/volunteers should NOT become a ‘friend’ of young people on social media platforms.

There may, on extremely rare occasions, be a need for church worker/volunteer to communicate directly via social media with a young person. In such instances the situation should always be discussed with the Incumbent *before* proceeding, and a copy kept of all communications.

All group leaders should be made aware of this policy and must ensure that their personal privacy settings are also secure before joining any platform used for church work.

Signed on behalf of the PCC by:

..... The Revd Sarah Colver, Associate Vicar

..... Church Warden

..... Date

Review and Renewal Date: September 2019