



## **Social Media, E-contact and 1-2-1 contact with C&YP From Trinity - Guidelines**

The Trinity Safeguarding Policy states that special care should be taken with use of social media - all staff and C&YW volunteers or Church Officers (i.e. anyone appointed or elected by, or on behalf of the Church to an office, post or role, whether they are ordained or lay, paid or unpaid) will follow policies and guidelines issued by the Diocese regarding appropriate use.

This document is based on the **Diocese Guidance for Working with Children and Young People - A model of safer working.**

### **E Safety & 1-2-1s**

- Ensure all electronic communications are appropriate and professional. (Including video chats/meetings, in the Covid climate)
- Where group zoom meetings take place, there will always be two leaders present.
- Always be respectful and courteous to those you engage with online and behave as though you were meeting in person.
- Do not contact a young person after 10pm or before 7am.
- If you want to post images of children in your group, make sure you get permission from their parents or carers first, and do not post anything that enables them to be identified and contacted.
- Be yourself; don't operate under aliases or a new identity.
- If using e-technology as a group activity, ensure that an adult worker knows and understands what is happening within the group.
- Do not make any relationship with a child (other than family members) through a social networking site.
- Maintain a log of all electronic contact with individuals or groups including messaging and texting.
- Ensure that parents or guardians are aware before commencing contact, that contact is happening or likely to take place on Social Media or other E-Contact between their child and the relevant Trinity staff, C&YW volunteers or Trinity Church Officers.

### **In plain English:**

Do not add 'friend/follow' any children or young people in Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat. There is no need to unfriend/follow current relationships, however please confirm the parents are aware of and happy with these e-relationships.

It is acceptable to text C&YP through Messenger/WhatsApp/text. These communications should be appropriate and professional, with a main aim of organising a 1-2-1 meet up (*Youth Worker role*) or keeping in touch, rather than to initiate or maintain long discussions.

These messages need to be stored and a member of the C&YW subcommittee, or Safeguarding Officer, will periodically random sample the messages. A discussion with parents should be had prior to any e-communication so that they are aware this may be happening and permission sought for 1-2-1s to take place.

Any 1-2-1 meet ups should also be notified to the Youth Worker, who will maintain a record and keep these accountable. 1-2-1s by the Youth Worker are reported to the C&YW subcommittee.