



Parish of St George the Martyr Shirley

Electronic Communication & Internet Use with Children & Young People

The following protocol was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting on 29.06.2022:

This protocol relates to the use of e-mail, mobile phones, text messages, social networking sites and other electronic communication methods in any communication between adults and children and adults and young people. It is drawn from the guidance provided by the Diocese of Southwark in "A Safe Church".

It is based on the principle that all e-communication between adults and children should take place within clear and explicit boundaries and be transparent and open to scrutiny.

The following rules must be followed at all times:

- E-contact between adults and young people may only be made for reasons related to the work of the church and can only be made with the knowledge of parents or carers. For example, an email must be copied to the parent or carer.
- Contact details of children or young people, such as mobile phone numbers or email addresses, may only be held by adults with the permission of parents or carers.
- Adults may only provide personal contact details to young people that are within the public domain of the church, including email addresses and mobile phone numbers.
- Personal information must not be shared with or requested from a young person by an adult unless it is appropriate for church business, and must always be with the consent of their parents or carers.
- Social networking sites such as Facebook must not be used by adults to communicate with children or young people under any circumstances.
- All communications to children and young people by adults should use an appropriate tone and not be over familiar or personal.
- Images of children or young people may not be taken and published on the internet without the specific written consent of parents or carers.