

Parish policy: sharing images of children and young people online

This policy should be read alongside the Diocese of York guidance on sharing images of children online and the parish's existing safeguarding and media consent procedures.

1. Sharing guidance

We will make sure that relevant people understand the risks associated with sharing photographs and videos online.

We will:

- share guidance with PCC members, children and youth leaders, Parish Safeguarding Officers, and others working with children, young people, or vulnerable adults;
- make links to further advice and support available where questions arise; and
- seek safeguarding or specialist advice where we are unsure about an appropriate approach.

2. Actively reduce the risks

We will take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of photographs and videos being copied, manipulated, or misused. Depending on the circumstances, this may include:

- using photographs in which people are less readily identifiable;
- considering who needs to be able to see an image before publishing it;
- limiting identifying information such as names, schools, locations, or regular activity times;
- using appropriately sized, lower-resolution images on public websites;
- removing unnecessary image metadata;
- restricting access to images where appropriate; and
- removing images when they are no longer needed.

No single measure can remove the risk completely, so we will use a combination of measures where appropriate.

3. Ask for consent and support informed choices

We will seek appropriate consent before using identifiable photographs or videos.

We will give parents and carers clear information about how images may be used and the risks of making identifiable images publicly available online, so that they can make an informed choice.

Children and young people will be involved in decisions about their own images in a way appropriate to their age and understanding. Where appropriate, vulnerable adults will also be supported to understand and express their own wishes about photographs and videos.

We will respect a person's decision not to be photographed or not to have their image shared.

Consent can be changed or withdrawn, and we will make it straightforward for people to tell us if their preferences change.

4. Review what we publish

We will review publicly available photographs and videos at least twice a year [or once each term, if preferred].

The review will consider whether:

- images still need to be publicly available;
- consent and preferences remain current;
- images contain unnecessary identifying information;
- older or high-resolution images should be removed, replaced, cropped, or made less publicly accessible; and
- images of people who are no longer involved with the church should remain online.

Any concerns identified during the review will be acted on promptly.

5. Respond if an image is misused

If we become aware that an image connected with the parish has been manipulated, sexualised, or otherwise misused, we will treat this as a safeguarding concern.

We will:

- follow the parish and diocesan safeguarding procedures;
- inform the Parish Safeguarding Officer and incumbent;
- avoid downloading, copying, forwarding, or unnecessarily circulating abusive material;
- preserve relevant information such as usernames, messages, account details, or web addresses where safe to do so;
- remove or restrict access to the original parish image where appropriate; and
- report concerns to the police, CEOP, Internet Watch Foundation, or other appropriate service where required.

If someone is at immediate risk, we will contact the police on 999.

Review

The PCC will review this policy regularly and whenever there is a significant change in diocesan or national guidance.

Agreed by the PCC on: _____

Next review due: _____

Signed: _____