



**Diocese of
Blackburn**



CHILD FRIENDLY CHURCH AWARD SCHEME

©



'Our vision is to grow in every community in Lancashire a vibrant inclusive Christian presence, providing a spirituality accessible to all, and participating in God's mission to the world'

Bishop of Blackburn

A priority on our Mission Action Plan is to nurture children and young people in the Christian faith. As a result of this we are introducing a new scheme to encourage churches to put children and families on their agendas, to work towards certain targets and obtain a certificate and an award to be displayed as appropriate.

*This is a voluntary scheme, with a light touch,
so, there won't be lots of forms involved!*

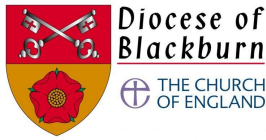
Criteria:

1. A Parish Child Protection Policy is in place & being implemented
2. The church buildings offer a safe environment
3. On-going training and support for leaders is in place
4. There is provision for children's, youth and young people's nurturing groups (0-16 yrs)
5. There are opportunities for children to be included in child friendly church services
6. Suitable materials for under 5's are available in church
7. There are opportunities for the voices of young people from 14+ yrs to be heard
8. Feedback is obtained from children
9. Vision for Children's Work
10. Church School links

Process for awarding:

- Registration and Pack sent out on request
- Church Council to consider the set criteria
- Undertake self-assessment process
- Return form to Susan and Craig
- Adviser visit
- Adviser reports back to council
- Implications considered
- Award presentation
- Dated certificate and logo to display
- Church Council commitment with annual review of criteria
- Diocesan follow-up and re-award after 3 years

Included in this pack: Church Council Self-Assessment & Guidance Notes



CHILD FRIENDLY CHURCH AWARD SCHEME®

Parochial Church Council Self-Assessment

Name of Parish _____ Parish No. _____

Deanery _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Tel: _____

E-mail _____

The process for awarding is explained in the introductory sheet. In order to qualify for a visit from an Adviser, the following criteria should be considered and discussed by the Church Council and self-assessment boxes ticked accordingly:

✓ or ✗ in the boxes below

1. A Parish Child Protection Policy is in place & being implemented

	Yes	No	unsure
Is a parish Child Protection Policy in place and being implemented? *			
Have you appointed an Under 18's Co-ordinator?			
Is a list of volunteers held by the Church Council?			
Do all volunteers have a clear role description?			
Do all those who come into contact with children possess a Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Certificate?			
Are all activities authorised by the Church Council?			
Are all the above activities adequately insured?			

*model policy document and forms can be found on www.blackburn.anglican.org

2. The church buildings offer a safe environment

	Yes	No	unsure
Are group areas warm and clean?			
Are all areas properly set up?			
Are leaders aware of potential hazards, for example: electrical points, protrusions, heaters etc. in all places you welcome children?			
Are leaders aware of emergency procedures?			
Is there a list of designated First Aiders displayed?			
Do all volunteers know the location of telephones, first aid kits, accident/incident books?			
Are daily/weekly registers kept and archived indefinitely?			
Are adult/child ratios adhered to?			

3. On-going training and support for leaders is in place

	Yes	No	unsure
Does your church encourage volunteers to attend training programmes, run by the diocese or other agencies for all those who come into contact with children? For example:			
Child Protection training?			
Certificate courses for children's/youth leaders? **			
Practical workshops e.g. creative prayers, dance, puppet ministry, storytelling, Godly Play?			
Are there opportunities to discover & update resources? #			
Are leaders affirmed or commissioned in a church service?			
Do you pray for your leaders?			
Are leaders trained in basic first aid? +			

** The Diocese offers training for children's and youth leaders

Resources are available at the Diocesan Offices to buy and to borrow

+ St John Ambulance or the British Red Cross will be able to deliver a basic first aid course

4. There is provision for children's nurturing groups (0-16 yrs)

Do you provide Sunday and/or mid-week groups for children aged between 0 and 16 years?

Are you meeting the needs of each child in terms of their social, physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual development?

Do leaders prepare carefully for their sessions?

Are there opportunities for children to explore the Bible, encounter and experience God?

Is there regular prayer for these groups?

Do you take into account children with special needs?

Is your Church Council sympathetic to spending requests?

Have you included youth and Children's work as part of your MAP focus?

	Yes	No	unsure
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Are there opportunities for children to explore the Bible, encounter and experience God?			
Is there regular prayer for these groups?			
Do you take into account children with special needs?			
Is your Church Council sympathetic to spending requests?			
Have you included youth and Children's work as part of your MAP focus?			

5. There are opportunities for children to be included in child friendly church services

Are there times in your monthly service pattern when all ages are together e.g. Church Parades?

Are any of these services all-age services?

Do any of your services focus on a particular age-range?

Are the children welcomed as individuals in their own right?

Does the service leader introduce and explain things clearly?

Is the length and structure of the service appropriate for children? e.g. Do children have the freedom to move around and be vocal?

Are leaders involved in any/all aspects of child friendly services?

Are your service resources appropriate? e.g. service sheets/ hymn books?

	Yes	No	unsure
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Are leaders involved in any/all aspects of child friendly services?			
Are your service resources appropriate? e.g. service sheets/ hymn books?			

6. Suitable materials for under 5's are available in church

- Do parents/carers with young children know about your toilet/baby changing facilities?
- Do you allocate a special 'area' for parents/carers to feel comfortable with babies and very young children?
- Do they have access to good quality quiet toys, books and activities?
- Do you communicate these facilities to parent/carers?
- Do you have a system for welcoming families?
e.g. Welcome Pack pre/post Baptism
- Are there key 'befriender/s' to these parents/carers and their children while they are in church?

Yes	No	unsure

7. There are opportunities for the voices of children from 14+ yrs to be heard

- Do you invite your 14+ to attend and observe your church council meetings?
- Are 14+ involved in the leading of services?
- Are 14+ involved in worship planning & children's group planning?
- Are they listened to / consulted on church matters?
- Are they invited to be involved in the day to day running of the church?

Yes	No	unsure

8. Feedback is obtained from children

- Are there opportunities for leaders/parents/children to offer comments or recommendations when making plans for the future?
- Does the Church Council follow up/consider any comments / recommendations made by the children?

Yes	No	unsure

9. Vision for Children's Work

Is there a common vision for children's work in your church?

Is this vision reflected in your church vision statement?

Is children's/youth work on your church council agenda at least once a year?

Yes	No	unsure

10. Church School Links

Do you have a church school, Primary or Secondary in your parish?

Does your school visit for services or other reason?

Do leaders or members of the congregation have input in the school?
E.g. clergy leading worship, volunteers helping in classes

Does the church run a Christian club for school?

Are families encouraged to attend worship in school or church?

Yes	No	unsure

CHILD FRIENDLY CHURCH AWARD SCHEME

When the Church Council have completed the self-assessment, please send to the following address, and an adviser will arrange a visit:

Child Friendly Church Award Scheme
Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education
Church House
Cathedral Close
Blackburn
BB1 5AA

Useful Contacts:

Susan Witts

Craig Abbott

Children's Work Adviser

Youth Officer

Tel: 01254 503070 ext 222

Tel: 01254 503070 ext 223

susan.witts@blackburn.anglican.org

craig.abbott@blackburn.anglican.org

Carole Williams

Jill Ivison

Children's Works Administrator

Youth Work Administrator

Tel: 01254 503070 ext 218

Tel 01254 503070 ext 221

carole.williams@blackburn.anglican.org

youth@blackburn.anglican.org

Useful Information

*Child Protection Policy containing model documents and forms

**Diocesan Training for children's and youth leaders includes

What every Volunteer Youth Worker Should Know

Equipping - Youth Work Training

Church Colleges Certificate in Christian Youth Work

Church Colleges Certificate in Children's Ministry

Diocesan Sunday School Teachers' Training Course

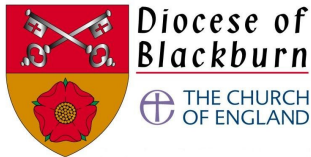
Spectrum Core Simply Series

#Resources available from Resource Room at Church House

+St John Ambulance or British Red Cross will be able to deliver a Basic First Aid Course.

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CHILD FRIENDLY CHURCH AWARD SCHEME



This is a breakdown of what will be discussed and things which will need to be available at the time of the parish visit.

1. A Parish Child Protection Policy is in place & being implemented

- Name of under- 18 co-ordinator
- Data for volunteers including names, addresses, role title and CRB clearance.
- Role descriptions for volunteers
 - i.e. Junior Church helper- Arrives to set up at 9.00am
Prays with leaders before children arrive
Meets children as they arrive
Assists leader during sessions
Helps to clear away
Leaves at 10.15am
- Details of CRB Clearances
- Insurance certificates

2. The church buildings offer a safe environment

- View the rooms used by children and young people
- How are they used usually and what changes are made.
- Emergency and fire procedures displayed
- List of First Aiders displayed
- Accident book and location of telephones
- Registers viewed and knowledge of where they are archived.
- Discuss adult/child ratios

3. On-going training and support for leaders is in place.

- Discuss training undertaken by any volunteers including Child Protection, Certificate courses and workshops.
- Discuss resources used
- Discuss how workers are affirmed or commissioned
- Discuss how new workers are inducted to their roles

4. There is provision for children's nurturing groups (0-16 yrs)

- Discuss groups provided for children and young people
- Discuss any special needs issues
- View a planned programme or minutes from a planning meeting.
- Discuss the parish MAP
- Discuss how children and young people's work is funded.

5. There are opportunities for children to be included in child friendly church services

- Discuss how the church services meet the worshipping needs of children and young people.
- View service booklets or service outlines used.

6. Suitable materials for under 5's are available in church

- View areas used by under 5's.
- View resources available for under 5's
- Discuss how new families are welcomed into the life of the church.
- List of befrienders or crèche workers.

7. There are opportunities for the voices of 14+ yrs to be heard

- Discuss how children 14+ are involved in different aspects of church life.
- Discuss how their views have been collated and fed back to the leadership.

8. Feedback is obtained from children

- Discuss how feedback from children/parents/leaders is obtained.
- View PCC minutes if appropriate.

9. Vision for Children's Work

- Discuss how the parish MAP reflects the vision for children and young people.

10. Church and school links

- Discuss how the schools in your area are linked to the parish

Please include any photographs/minutes/programmes/service sheets that will support the discussion.