

## **St James' Trowbridge Youth Fellowship E-Safety Policy**

*“Safeguarding is at the heart of the Christian faith which believes each person is made in the image of God. It is our job to create a culture where people are served, heard and loved.” C of E Safeguarding e-manual 2021*

E-safety is the collective term for safeguarding involving the use of mobile phones, computers (including laptops, tablets) and other electronic devices including games consoles, to communicate and access the internet, emails, text messages, instant messaging, social networking sites and other social media.

This policy is for the Youth Fellowship Leaders, Parents and Young people in Youth Fellowship and will be communicated to all of the above as well at the PCC of St James' Trowbridge.

Our E-safety is conducted along the same lines as our in-person safeguarding.

The aims of Youth Fellowship are to provide a group for 11-18 year olds to explore and grow in the Christian faith. The leaders are expected to teach the bible and to share their own faith in a way that is age appropriate. They are prepared to be a listening ear to the young people and to pray for them when they are struggling. The leaders will do their best to answer any questions the young people have. The leaders are Christians and are committed to the biblical faith consistent with the doctrine of the Church of England. They are also committed to creating a culture where the young people are served, heard and loved.

### **General principles for safeguarding at Youth Fellowship:**

- Treat individuals with respect, ensuring their welfare and safety
- Two adults with an up-to-date DBS certificate are always present with children under the age of 18 (including in a car or at The Rectory)
- The youth fellowship leaders seek to create a culture where people are served, heard and loved
- Any safeguarding concerns can be taken to Parish Safeguarding Officer initially and then to the Salisbury Safeguarding Team if needed  
[safeguarding@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@salisbury.anglican.org)

### **Specific implications for use of technology:**

- Email is used primarily to communicate to parents and young people to share information about our activities
- A church phone exists to call parents or for parents to call the leaders during sessions or in an emergency. It is primarily for practical arrangements. The church office number is **07565917441**. Parents and young people are welcome to save this number in their phones

- It can be used to contact young people over text message if we are worried about their whereabouts during our activities or if they need to contact us
- It is shared by Clair (Church office manager), Jake (Rector) and Nicola (YF Leader) and parents are free to request access to view text correspondence with their children at any time
- Emails to or from young people should ideally include a parent. There may be exceptions if a young person is experiencing difficulties at home- in this instance the leader should let the young person know that another adult within the church will view the content of emails
- Emails sent from St James' email accounts can be viewed by all the Youth Fellowship Leaders
- Youth leaders should not communicate with youth fellowship members one to one online on any other platform (eg Facebook)

**For young people at youth fellowship:**

- If you want to email the YF email address, please copy in a parent. If there is a reason you would prefer not to do this then be aware that a second adult from church will be invited to view the email. Leaders will not email you one to one
- Different families have different rules about what content is deemed appropriate for young people to view online. With this in mind, we ask that phones are not used during youth fellowship except to contact parents
- We want to support, help and care for you at youth fellowship. There is a question box you are free to put questions into whenever you like and we will do our best to answer them as a group at youth fellowship

Further guidance can be found here:

[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/safer-environment-and-activities-oct19\\_0.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/safer-environment-and-activities-oct19_0.pdf)

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Approved by Pam Wort and Jake Eggertsen

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