

CHILD FRIENDLY CHURCH AWARD SCHEME ©

Introduction:

The Diocesan Review made a keynote recommendation that parishes ‘**welcome and integrate children and their families into the worshipping life of their church.**’ It is desirable that parishes advertise to the community that they take the provision of the young seriously. Therefore, churches inviting children should be accountable and meet with certain set criteria. A new scheme has been introduced 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 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 children from 14+ yrs to be heard
8. Feedback is obtained from children
9. Vision for Children's Work
10. All About My Church

Process for awarding:

- Nominations from any source
- Registration and Pack sent out
- Church Council to consider the set criteria
- Church Council to undertake self-assessment process
- Return form to Church Growth & Ecumenism Team
- Adviser on-site visit
- Adviser sends report to PCC/DCC Secretary for distribution
- Adviser attends a Church Council meeting for report discussion
- PCC/DCC consider implications
- 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

