Safeguarding Policy for Children who attend church or a midweek group (eg Friday Club) without a parent or carer

Approved by the PCC on 28th September 2021. To be reviewed annually
Latest update: 24th February 2026

Overview

All children attending church activities – on a Sunday or midweek – should be registered and parents/carers must complete the registration form giving permission for them to attend, including their contact details.

Children under 11 should always be dropped off and collected by a parent/carer.

Children aged 11 or over may arrive and leave church activities unaccompanied as long as prior permission has been given from the parent/carer and subject to approval by the safeguarding team, as summarised below.

Children Attending Church on their own

1. The relevant Sunday School Leader should be responsible during the service for the child.

2. At the end of the service or at the end of any following organised and supervised activities (during which the child is the responsibility of their Sunday School leader) the child should be escorted from the church building/site and encouraged to go straight home.

3. If not already done so, the parent should be contacted and if the child is to attend again on their own the parent should be asked to write a letter/sign a form to say that they are in agreement with points 1 and 2 above.

4. For Sunday Club for children aged over 11 years old, the parents of those young people must have signed the back of the Registration Form giving permission for their child to go and come on their own.

Children Attending Friday Club on their own

- Children at Friday Club are only permitted to come or leave on their own if:
  - they are aged 11 or over, and
  - they have specific written permission from their parents/carers, and
  - with the agreement and permission of the Church Safeguarding team.
- The Safeguarding Team will take into consideration the child's age, distance from home and the maturity of the child before making a decision.

Escorting children home after Friday Club

- It is permissible to walk a child back home after Friday Club only if the following are in place:
    - they have specific written permission from their parents/carers, and
    - with the agreement and permission of the Church Safeguarding team.

  The Safeguarding Team will take into consideration the child's age, distance from home and the maturity of the child before making a decision.

The following guidance must be followed:

- Two leaders (or more) must accompany the child/children back home. It is not permitted for only one leader to be alone with the child/children;
- Leaders must ensure the children go into their homes and walk all the way with them.
- Contact details for the parent/carer must be available in case they need to be contacted
- If any concerns arise these should be reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officers immediately