



## **Policy Statement: E-Safety for children, young people and vulnerable adults**

This policy should be read alongside the Parish of Bishop Hannington Memorial Church, Hove's policies on 'Safeguarding', 'Expressing Concerns and 'Whistleblowing'', 'Code of Safer Working Practices', 'Social media', 'Data Privacy Notice'

This policy applies to all staff voluntary or paid and anyone else involved in working or volunteering on behalf of the Bishop Hannington Church, Goldstone Church or Holy Cross Church.

### **Purpose of Policy**

- To protect the children, young people and vulnerable adults who are ministered to by the churches that make up the parish of Bishop Hannington Memorial Church and who make use of information technology (such as mobile phones/devices, games consoles and the Internet) as part of their involvement with the parish.
- This covers the overarching principles – and some practical application.

### **Leaders/volunteers will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:**

- Treating any child protection concern arising from the online world in the same way and taking it just as seriously, as concerns arising from the offline world.
- Ensuring that our Parish Safeguarding Officer has access to up-to-date information and training regarding online safety, assisting them as appropriate to access this training.
- Ensuring that all staff and volunteers at our three churches minimise using private forms of electronic communication (text message, email, direct messaging including on social media) to communicate with the children, young people and vulnerable adults they are responsible for.
- Sending any well-wishing messages (eg driving exam, hope you're doing OK, etc) either with another leader in the group conversation or taking a screen-shot of the messages and replies and sending them to another leader of the same sex as the child/young person/vulnerable adult . These kind of messages are only sent to a child/young-person/vulnerable-adult of the same sex as the leader/volunteer, and only between 8am and 8pm.
- Where a child/young-person/vulnerable-adult initiates a one-to-one contact with a leader/volunteer, that person is able to:
  - Acknowledge, but not extend, the one-to-one contact
  - Screenshot the (acknowledgement) replies and send them to another leader of the same sex as the initiator
  - Communicate only between 8am and 8pm
- Never posting online any form of inappropriate content, including sexual content, demeaning content, or content promoting illegal activity.
- Maintaining electronic versions of sensitive personal data securely, according to the principles of the Data Protection Act (see 'Data Privacy Notice').
- Providing age-appropriate awareness material, including training, to children, young people and vulnerable adults with regards to online safety.
- Providing awareness material to parents/carers with regards to online safety.
- If social-media is used with children, young people or vulnerable adults – the Social Media policy will be followed

### **Addenda**

- The welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults to whom we minister is paramount and governs our approach to the use of electronic communications.
- To this end we work with children, young people and vulnerable adults, their parents, carers and other agencies in helping them to be responsible in their approach to e-safety;
- The use of electronic communications is an essential part of all our lives; it is involved in how we communicate with each other. It is an intrinsic part of the experience of children, young people and

vulnerable adults. However, it can present challenges in terms of how we use it responsibly, and, if misused can be actually or potentially harmful.

*Adopted by the PCC on 23 January 2018 Updated by the PCC 2020, 2022, 2025*