

Messy Church and Unaccompanied Children

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team have been asked “What about Unaccompanied Children and Messy Church or other Church Services?”

- Have a policy in place about unaccompanied children at Messy Church
- If your policy is to have no unaccompanied children, then make it clear in your advertising Messy Church who it is for - ‘Families to come together’
 - a parent could be bringing other children from their own - they remain the responsible adult
- Those on the door ask any unaccompanied child to return home and to come back with a parent or responsible adult.
- If your policy is to have unaccompanied children present then signed permission should be gained from a parent before the child stays.
- If unaccompanied children turn up at a Church service in your Church building, have people available (suitably checked) to be aware and look after them and arrange contact with parents to gain necessary signs permission.
- Use common sense in maintaining Safeguarding for Children.
- Whilst 16 and 17 year olds remain children by law they do have rights in decision making and this needs to be borne in mind.