



CHECKLIST FOR PARISHES

ADMISSION OF BAPTISED CHILDREN TO HOLY COMMUNION REGULATIONS 2006 [GS 1596 A]

This checklist is designed to assist parishes, which are considering admitting children to Communion before Confirmation. It is not a substitute for the regulations [GS 1596 A], and parishes should familiarise themselves with the Regulations at an early stage. The attached application form is linked to the numbered paragraphs, and will help when submitting a policy for the approval of the Bishops of Dover and Maidstone

This checklist and application form along with other useful resources can be found on the diocesan website at <http://www.canterburydiocese.org/childrenandyoungpeople/childrensministry>

- 1 Has the issue been fully discussed by the PCC and a formal resolution passed and minuted. Where appropriate, have ecumenical partners been consulted?
- 2 Have you consulted the Children
- 3 & Young People's Ministry Adviser or anyone else from outside the Parish? Have you sought help, advice or guidance from anyone outside the Parish?
- 4 Has there been a period of preparation and discussion with the congregation with adequate time and opportunity for questions, concerns and pastoral issues to be addressed.
- 5 How does admission to communion fit in with the overall parish policy on the nurture of children within the framework of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation? What are the earliest ages deemed appropriate by the parish for admission to Communion and for Confirmation.
- 6 How have the implications for worship been addressed? How much of the liturgy will communicant children attend, how will they be involved, and how often will they receive Communion?
- 7 How will parents and guardians be involved in the process of deciding whether and when individual children are ready to receive Communion and in the period of preparation? How will the circumstances of families where the parents do not normally attend church be addressed?
- 8 How will the needs of children with learning difficulties be catered for?
- 9 What provision will be made for the preparation of children to receive Communion? Who will be responsible for the preparation and what materials will be used?
- 10 Who will be responsible for maintaining the register of people admitted to Communion before Confirmation?
- 11 Three years after the implementation of children receiving Communion in your parish there will be a review of the policy in consultation with the Children & Young People's Ministry Adviser. Who will be responsible for undertaking this review?

Advice and help is available from a number of clergy who have taken parishes through this process. Murray Wilkinson, the Children & Young People's [ChYP's] Ministry Adviser is also available for consultation and should be referred to during the period of discussion and decision making.

Contact **Murray Wilkinson**: o 01227 459401 e mwilkinson@diocant.org m 07872986501

Compiled by Ted Hurst