

# Child Friendly Church Self Assessment

From [www.canterbury.anglican.org](http://www.canterbury.anglican.org)

The 10 sections are to help you assess your work with children and young people. The most important thing to remember is not to agonise over the questions. Self assessment is simply a tool to help you identify how to work towards becoming more child friendly.

## Answering the Questions

<b>Yes</b>	You can confidently say you have achieved what is asked for in the question
<b>Not Sure</b>	Tick this box if you think you are moving towards 'yes' but are not quite there.
<b>No</b>	If you are confident that this is not something you are currently doing tick No.

✓ or ✗ in boxes below

### 1. Parish has Child-Friendly Policy and Structure

Is a parish volunteer Screening In Faith process in place and being implemented?

Does your parish have a child/youth ministries coordinator?

Is a list of volunteers held by the Church Council?

Do all volunteers have a clear role description?

Do all those who are in high risk ministries with children / young people possess a Criminal Records Check?

Are all activities authorised by the Church Council?

Are all activities adequately insured?

Yes	Unsure	No

### 2. The Church Buildings Offer a Safe Environment

Are group areas warm and clean?

Are leaders aware of potential hazards, for example: electrical points, protrusions, heaters etc. in all places for children?

Are leaders aware of emergency procedures?

Yes	Unsure	No



**5. There are opportunities for children / young people to be included in child friendly church services**

Are any of your services all-ages services?

Do any of your services focus on a particular age-range?

Are the children / young people welcomed as individuals in their own right?

Does the service leader introduce and explain things clearly?

Is the length and structure of the service appropriate for children? / young people, e.g. Do children have the freedom to move around?

Are leaders involved in any / all aspects of child / young person friendly services?

Are your service resources appropriate? e.g. books/papers?

Yes	Unsure	No

**6. Suitable materials for under 5's are available in church**

Do parents/carers with young children know about your toilet/baby changing facilities?

Do you allocate a special 'area' for parents / carers to feel comfortable with babies and very young children?

Do they have access to good quality quiet toys, books and activities?

Do you have a system for welcoming families?  
e.g. Welcome Pack pre / post Baptism

Do your greeters orient new families to the children's facilities?

Yes	Unsure	No

**7. There are opportunities for the voices of children and young people to be heard**

Do you invite young people to attend and observe your church council meetings?

Are children and young people involved in the leading of services?

Are children and young people involved in worship planning & children's group planning?

Are they listened to / consulted on church matters?

Yes	Unsure	No

Are they invited to be involved in the day to day running of the church?

Are there opportunities for leaders / parents / children / young people to offer comments or recommendations when making plans for the future?

Does the Church Council follow up/consider any comments / recommendations made by the children / young people?


### 8. Vision for children's / youth work

Is there a common vision for children's / youth work in your church?

Is this vision reflected in your church mission statement?

Is children's / youth work on your church council agenda at least once a year?

**Yes    Unsure    No**


### 9. Church/school links

Do you have a school, primary or secondary in your parish?

Does your school visit for services or other reason?

Does the church run a Christian club for the school?

Are families encouraged to attend worship in school or church?

**Yes    Unsure    No**


### 10. Outreach

Do you have regular events / activities which draw in children / young people from outside 'the church'?

Do you have special events / activities which draw in children / young people from outside 'the church'?

Are activities and services accessible to children / young people and families with no church background?

**Yes    Unsure    No**


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Reflections from the Survey....

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Three things our parish can do to become more Child/Youth friendly...

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

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