

What are the criteria?

A safeguarding policy is in place and implemented

The church buildings offer a safe environment

On-going training and support for leaders in place

There is provision for children's nurturing groups

There are opportunities for children to be included in child friendly church services

Suitable materials for under 5's are available in church

Opportunities for the voices of young people to be heard

Feedback is obtained from children

Vision for children's work

A children's sheet – All about my Church – is available with space for children to give their own feedback

When does the church get the award?

If you can tick "yes" for everything, you should get it straight away!
But even if you can't, if you can be seen to be working towards the set criteria then that may be satisfactory to an Advisor - remember the Advisor is there to help and encourage you.

What does a church get once they are "Child Friendly"?

You will receive a certificate to put inside the church and a logo to display outside.

- And, hopefully, in time you'll get some new children and families too, as your church becomes known for being "Child Friendly".



Child Friendly Church Award Scheme



Jesus said 'If anyone accepts children like these in my name, then he is also accepting me. And if he accepts me, then he is also accepting the One who sent me.' Mark 9:37 (International Children's Bible)

Jesus said 'Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them. The kingdom of God belongs to people who are like these children. I tell you the truth. You must accept the kingdom of God as a little accepts things, or you will never enter it.' Then Jesus took the children in his arms. He put his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10:14-16 (International Children's Bible)

- Jesus took children seriously.
- The task of bringing up children to know Christ is not just the job of their leaders — it is the responsibility of the whole congregation.
- Children need to develop good feelings about the church and Christianity.
- Children need to feel that they play an active part in the whole church fellowship.

The Child Friendly Church Award Scheme has been developed by the Diocese of Liverpool, to help churches give children the best possible experience of church — and with it a positive, true view of what God is like.

The Child Friendly Church Award Scheme acts as a tool to help you evaluate the basics of your children's / youth work — the extent to which your church is a safe, suitable place for children, nurtures them in the Christian faith, allows them to be fully part of the people of God in that place, and equips their leaders for this work.

What's involved?

This is a self assessment scheme: although someone will come to work through the form in more detail. There are 9 sections to the form. Yes / No / Unsure tick boxes invite the Church Council to respond to the questions. This allows the church to celebrate what is positive as well as discuss what could be achievable. The scheme has been developed to encourage churches and is not the District's equivalent to Ofsted! The award is intended to celebrate and support the church's journey to being Child Friendly.

Process for awarding:

- Nominations from any source
- Registration and pack sent out
- Church Council to consider the set criteria
- Undertake self assessment process
- Return form to District Facilitator
- Advisor visits on site
- Advisor reports back to Church Council
- Implications considered
- Award presentation
- Dated certificate and logo to display
- Church Council commitment to annual review of criteria
- District follow-up and re-award after 3 years