

Child Friendly Church

Self-Assessment Tool

This tool is adapted from the Child Friendly Church Award Scheme.

It simply poses a number of questions to help you asses how your church welcomes children and families.

This document has been inspired by the work of Dr Lucy Peppiatt who asks us to reflect on what makes a good parent and the role of the church as a good parent. We feel this is a very helpful analogy for our ministry with children and young people.

Dr Peppiatt suggests that good parents:

* Adapt to the different phases of a child growing up
* Delight in their children’s differences (from themselves and siblings)
* Impart values by teaching them and modelling them.
* Act as guides and friends throughout a child’s life.
* Depend on their grown-up children when they need to, modelling
* humility and teachability.
* Prepare their children to leave home.
* Strike a balance between control and freedom.
* Prepare children to take responsibility, to make good decisions on
* their own, and to form healthy relationships
* Give children the freedom to fail.

How can the church respond to the challenges that being a “good parent” can bring?

*“Churches, as communities of disciples, should be places where we nurture, encourage, teach, and then send out. The best families are those that provide security but also know when to release children to grow, to grow up, to become independent and to blossom and flourish away from home. May the places where we serve Jesus Christ be places that know how to do this.”*

Dr Lucy Peppiatt - Principal of Westminster Theological Centre

Church

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| **1. How do you welcome Children?** |
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| **2. What activities, groups and/or resources do you provide to help children belong?** |
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| **3. How do you help children engage with worship?** |
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| **4. Do you have an up to date safeguarding, equality and health and safety policy, and is this being implemented?** |
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| **5. What areas would you like to improve and how can we help you improve in this area?** |
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Children

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| **1. How do you disciple children and young people and nurture their spiritual development?** |
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| **2. How are the voices of children and young people heard?** |
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| **3. How do you equip & support your Children & Families Leaders?** |
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| **4. How do you provide the opportunity for interaction between parents and children’s leaders?** |
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| **5. What areas would you like to improve and how can we help you improve in this area?** |
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Community

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| **1 How do you engage with local schools** |
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| **2. How are you engaging with children and young people in your community?** |
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| **3. What forms of fresh expression happen for children and young people?** |
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| **4. What is your church’s vision for children and young people?** |
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| **5. What areas would you like to improve and how can we help you improve in this area?** |
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