



# POLICY STATEMENT FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

## Photography and/or Filming for Personal Use

- No photos are to be taken by anyone within the Church, without having prior consent or being part of the approved photography team. If anyone is found doing this, our Church Wardens, Staff Steward or member of team will ask them to delete the photos and refrain from taking further photos. You can recognise these team members by their St John's name badge
- Those on the team taking photos during Youth and Children's events, are to make sure that photos are sent to the Youth and/or Children's coordinator at the end of the event and all photos to be removed immediately.
- The Youth and Children's coordinator or the church office will inform the team of those on the 'No Photo's' list.

Photography is an integral part of our church. As a church that wants to be outward facing, we believe it is important to show life at St John's Church with the aim of encouraging people to attend services and help people feel at ease so that they know what to expect.

We are aware of the risks and challenges associated with photography in a group setting.

### **The purpose of this policy statement is to:**

- protect children and vulnerable adults who take part in our services, events, and activities, specifically those where photographs and videos may be taken.
- set out the overarching principles that guide our approach to photographs/videos being taken of children during our events and activities.
- ensure that we operate in line with our values and within the law when creating, using, and sharing images of children.

This policy statement applies to all staff and volunteers at our church.

### **We believe that:**

- children should never experience abuse of any kind.
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and to take, share and use images of children safely.

### **We recognise that:**

- the welfare of children taking part in our activities is paramount.
- children and their parents/carers have a right to decide whether their images are taken and how these may be used, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.
- consent to take images of children is only meaningful when the children and their parents/carers understand the potential risks associated with the use and distribution of these images.
- there are potential risks associated with sharing images of children online.



More information about this is available from  
[learning.nspcc.org.uk/researchresources/briefings/photographysharing-images-guidance](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/researchresources/briefings/photographysharing-images-guidance)

### **Consent**

- Children under the age of 13: consent should be gained from their parents.
- Children aged between 13 and 16: consent should be gained from parents and the children themselves.
- Children aged 17: consent should be gained from the children themselves.
- Consent is not needed if children appear in a wide angled group photograph in a public space i.e. church fete etc
- We will seek to keep children safe by ensuring that:
- Only photographers who are DBS checked will go into Kids/Youth and photograph at our services.
- Consent is obtained from a child and their carers, and is updated on ChurchSuite before taking photographs.
- Only photographs with consent are used by the church.
- Children are never named when their photographs are used.
- We never publish personal information about individual children
- Children, their parents and carers understand how images of children will be securely stored.
- Children, parents, and carers are reminded about that they can talk to their leaders if they have any concerns about images being shared.

### **Storage and use of images:**

- We will store photographs and videos of children securely.
- We will never store images of children on unencrypted portable equipment such as laptops, memory sticks and mobile phones.
- We use memory cards belonging only to the church.
- We will always obtain consent before using photographs. The Toddlers/Children/Youth team will check on a regular basis that parents are still happy with the consent given.