

**UNITED PARISH STATEMENT ON ADOPTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES GUIDELINE TO
SOCIAL NETWORKING & EMAIL PROTOCOL**

United Parish of Speldhurst, Groombridge & St John's

Policy for young people and children to cover all social media platforms to include live streaming:

This policy is to define principles, practice, accountability and transparency:

- obtain parental permission and the consent of a child over 13 years of age for any online activity or communication. Under 13 years of age parents consent only
- **avoid private messaging on a one-to-one basis**
- keep a log of all online communication, in case they are required at a later stage under safeguarding guidelines
- respect copyright and data protection
- adhere to age guidance of all social media platforms - use Net Aware to find out age appropriate guidelines if unsure
<https://www.net-aware.org.uk> (guidelines produced by NSPCC & O2)
- avoid sharing of personal details on social media
- make sure your privacy settings are set at an appropriate level
- follow the existing Diocese of Rochester Children's Protection Policy
- if posting comments online use a disclaimer to indicate the material you are using is a representative of your own views and not of the Church of England or the Diocese of Rochester
- the use and store of photographs of children/young people from Church activities should be kept password protected

Boundaries:

- keep to reasonable hours and avoid contact within school hours
- apply THINK acronym : (True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary, Kind)
- use age appropriate language
- do not bring the Church into disrepute or compromise its reputation
- do not accept young people(church members) as a personal 'facebook friend'. Create a group Church facebook group which can create clear boundaries
- when taking part in Zoom, Skype or Messenger/facetime try to have two adults present

Signed:

Date: