

## **Addition to Safeguarding/Social Media Policy/Mobile Phone for use using the Coronavirus Epidemic**

As a church we highly value the pastoral care of all our members, including our young people. During this unique and challenging time, we want to do all we can to maintain this, ensuring our young people are connected socially and able to access appropriate spiritual teaching and guidance.

In order us to keep in touch with our young people (aged 11-18), and enable our youth team to do this in appropriate, safe, but ways that our relevant to our young people, we have put together this guidance.

- We have created a database on our iknow system for parents in the age group. Parents will be kept up to date on developments through this. We will also gain parental permission virtually through this communication method for the following actions:
- CREATE A YOUNG PERSONS' IKNOW COMMUNICATION GROUP. We will gain parent's permission to add their young person's mobile phone number to this group. This can be used for communicating information to all the young people who regularly attend Ashwood Sunday youth work, and for sending links to appropriate websites e.g. youtube worship, teaching materials or talks.
- CREATE AN ASHWOOD YOUTH WORK INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT. After some research, we believe this to be the safest social media platform to communicate with our young people. However to ensure it safe use we will use the following guidelines:
  - The account will be set to PRIVATE. This means only the authorised account holder can accept 'followers'. The account will not be able to be viewed by the general public.
  - We will only accept requests to follow from young people whose parents have given consent via email to the church Safeguarding Officer (currently Zoe Bell) or Youth Instagram Account Holder/Administrator (proposed Richard Reason)
  - The account will NOT follow any young people back, so will not see or be party to any of the young person's social interactions outside of this account.
  - The account may 'follow' other appropriate accounts that share encouraging memes etc to gain inspiration.
  - The account will only be used to share encouragements, bible passages, prayer requests etc, and to encourage young people to interact with each other around these topics. It will not be used to advise or counsel young people.
  - Posts will only be made the in main 'Feed', which will remain permanently visible. Posts will not be made in the 'story' which disappears over time. This ensures accountability for those managing the account.
  - All messaging should be done in the comments of posts, which can be viewed publicly.
  - The administrators of the account will not engage in private messaging via the account. Any private messages received from young people will be ignored (this

will be explained to them via parents and information on the youth iKnow text service)

- The account will be followed by all youth team members, members of the church Senior Leadership Team and the Safeguarding Officer, to provide accountability for the account holder/administrator
- Log-in details may be provided to the other members of the youth team as the account holder/administrator sees fit, to enable them to share appropriately in line with this guidance.

The youth team should remember that not all young people will have access to the Instagram, so should make regular contact using the iknow text service also.

This policy will be made available to all parents and to young people so they are able to make informed decisions about being included.

Zoe Bell  
Safeguarding Officer  
18 March 2020