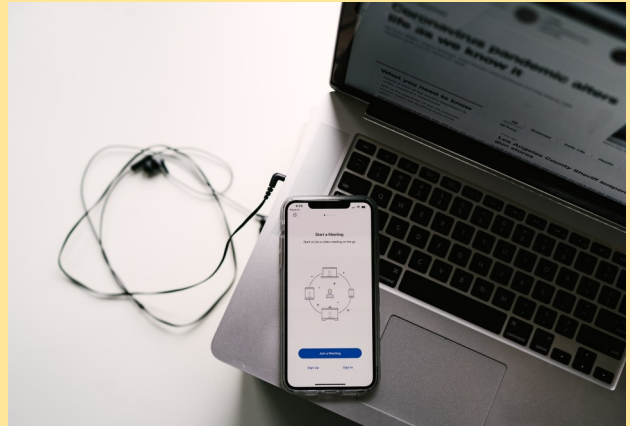


COMMUNICATING SAFELY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE ON-LINE

During this difficult time, and whilst social distancing measures are in place, churches are finding different and innovative ways to engage with young people. Many are using social media and video conferencing platforms for their virtual meet-ups, and these can provide a great opportunity for youth work, which otherwise may not happen. However, sensible and safe practice should continue to be taken in their use when communicating with young people on-line.



Video conferencing

Please take into account the following safeguarding considerations when working and communicating with young people in this way:

- **Risk Assessment** - You should have a written risk assessment, signed off by your PCC, for on-line activities. You need to outline everything that you will be doing, in order to identify the risks involved and consider what measures to put in to minimise these, *i.e. a risk could be that only one child dials in, and the measure you may take in this situation could be to either cancel the session, or ensure you always have two approved workers on a call.*
- **Consent/admin** - Ensure that you have parental consent for participation in the video call. Leaders should also be using a church-only e-mail address or profile when engaging in video calls, and not using their personal contact details.
- **Call Set-up** - Two leaders/approved workers should be on-line first before young people join, and be last to sign off. A register of children and adults in attendance should be taken. The call organiser should have the ability to mute/block participants if they are displaying/sharing anything unsuitable or illegal.
- **Security** – Do not make meetings public. Use a password or the waiting room feature to control the admittance of guests. Never share a link to a meeting on an unrestricted publicly available social media post. Change screen sharing options to host only.

Other helpful resources

- [Safer Environment and Activities– Section 4](#)
- [NSPCC: Undertaking remote teaching safely](#)
- [Thirtyone:eight advice: Guidance for online youthwork](#)
- [Church of England advice: Video Calling](#)
- [Zoom](#)