

Messy Church Safeguarding Guidance for Parishes (2022) (FINAL VERSION 8/11/2022)

Element	Guidance
Messy Church Safeguarding Policy Statement	An example parish safeguarding statement for Messy Church can be found in appendix B of this document. We recommend all parishes display a similar statement including contact details in the building where Messy Church is taking place and on the Parishes' web site.
Role Descriptions	There are 3 distinct roles for volunteer church members who support Messy Church. Role descriptions are needed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Messy Church core team/leaders - Messy Church assistants/helpers. Assistants and helpers should not take unaccompanied children or adults at risk to use the toilet on their own. - Kitchen assistants who do not assist with Messy Church activities.
Safer recruitment	Core team/leaders should be subject to full safer recruitment checks, including completion of a DBS (enhanced without barring) check and 2 references, 1 of which should be external to the parish). Assistants/helpers and kitchen assistants are not eligible for an enhanced DBS check. Parishes may choose to pay for basic checks for these roles. All assistants/helpers should be required to complete a declaration of suitability form (see appendix A of this document) and 1 reference from a referee external to the parish. They should be interviewed by the core team/leader to determine suitability for the role.
DBS Checks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Messy Church is a creative form of holding a church service, rather than a specific ministry to children or vulnerable adults. 2. Children should be accompanied by family members but this may not happen on every occasion. 3. Vulnerable adults should be accompanied by family members but this may not happen on every occasion. 4. Messy Church is normally held monthly. <p>DBS checks (enhanced without barring) are required for core team/leaders, one of whom should always be present.</p> <p>Enhanced DBS checks are not normally necessary for assistants and helpers, but if a parish wishes to undertake a basic DBS check on people fulfilling these roles, they will be required to pay the fee. All should complete the declaration of suitability form.</p>
Induction	Core team/leaders should deliver an induction session with all new assistants/helpers, prior to them assisting at a Messy Church service. This should include a discussion on the role and a briefing on how to raise safeguarding/domestic abuse concerns. The PSO may usefully assist in the delivery of these sessions.
Basic Awareness	All core team/leaders and assistants/helpers are required to complete the online safeguarding Basic Awareness e-learning programme. It is also recommended for kitchen assistants but not mandated.
Foundations	All core team/leaders are required to complete the online safeguarding Foundations training programme.
Domestic Abuse	This training is required for all core team/leaders via either online or face to face training.

Appendix A: Declaration of Suitability Form

Declaration of Suitability

(Only to be used by applicants for roles not eligible for an Enhanced Disclosure check).

There are certain roles in a variety of settings working with vulnerable groups where an Enhanced Disclosure Check is not possible, but it might be desirable/necessary for the person to support the expectations of the church/organisation. This document can be processed by the Lead Recruiter for anyone undertaking a Basic Disclosure Check. Whilst not mandatory, there are some roles in a church/organisation where it is important to know that the person who has a level of responsibility and/or is regarded as being in a position of trust is suitable and supports the expectations of the organisation in relation to safe conduct.

This form needs to be used with care and should not be used as a 'phishing' exercise.

If the applicant is eligible for an Enhanced Disclosure Check, this form must not be used. Please speak to your Lead recruiter/Safeguarding Officer for clarification.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

As an organisation, we undertake to meet the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations which became effective on May 25th 2018, and all other relevant legislation, and comply with the expectations of the Information Commissioners Office relating to the privacy and management of data about individuals.

You are asked to complete this form, and return it, **to the Lead Recruiter detailed below, in a separate sealed envelope**

To: _____
(Name of Recruiter/responsible person in place of worship/organisation requesting the Basic Disclosure Check)

Address: _____

Position/Role applied for:

The expectations of this role are that you; have no relevant unspent convictions, are not currently the subject of any criminal investigation or pending prosecution, and that there is no cause for concern regarding your conduct with children, young people or adults at risk in the context in the role for which you are applying.

It is also expected that if you become the subject of a criminal investigation, or a social services investigation, you will inform the relevant person in the organisation. You should also be in agreement with any Code of Conduct applied to your role and agree to abide by it. If you have any concerns regarding your suitability for the post that you have applied for, you should discuss this with an appropriate person and NOT sign this form

Declaration

I (full name), _____

of (address) _____

Understand the expectations of this church/organisation (as detailed above), agree to uphold them and will inform the relevant person if this situation changes.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Appendix B: Example Parish Messy Church Safeguarding Statement

St Another's Messy Church
Safeguarding Policy Statement



Our church is committed to supporting, nurturing and protecting all, and especially children, young people and adults at risk. We recognise that our safeguarding endeavours are the responsibility of the whole church community.

We are fully committed to acting within current legislation guidance, national frameworks, and our local safeguarding procedures. Our church is part of the national Church of England (Anglican) and the Diocese of Portsmouth

Our commitment to safeguarding includes acting in an open and transparent way and in collaboration with the diocese and statutory organisations such as the police, children and adult social care and the NHS.

We will ensure that those who volunteer to work with children young people and adults at risk are suitable for the role, know what the role includes and where they can go for help if they have a concern. We will also make sure they have the support they need.

Messy Church Name: St Another's Church

St Another's Church Vicar: Rev. John Smith; Church Email

Messy Church Leader: Mrs Jane Jones; Church Email