

Christ Church North Dublin (CCND), a membership church of Irish Church Missions (ICM) Social Media / Videoconferencing Policy

(a modified version of a policy create was d by Immanuel Church during the Covid-19 pandemic, incorporating elements of the Church of Ireland policy which was produced subsequently. [ICM] may be replaced by an ICM affiliated church name in due course, as they become independent charities)

The following is a protocol for the safety and of all involved in video conferencing with young people.

1. All communication regarding access and links is via parents, not directly with the young people.
2. Parental permission should be obtained prior to any video conferencing.
3. Panel permission should be obtained in advance of a new video conferencing initiative.
4. Skype / Facetime should not be used as these are social media platforms and as such involve sharing of contact details. The most up to date guidance on security for video conferencing platforms should be followed, including the use of password access where possible.
5. The link to the meeting should not be publicly advertised and only disseminated among church contacts or other parents who have given permission for their children to join.
6. A record of all those who attended should be kept after each meeting– both of devices which were logged in and of people who were visible or audible during the session (it may be more than one person per device)
7. There should be a minimum of two Garda-vetted adults in attendance at each meeting – both an adult co ordinating the meeting and at least one other adult as part of the call, who has agreed to be in attendance for the duration of the call.
8. Every effort should be made to avoid a scenario of an adult and child being the only two within a video call. The ‘waiting room’ feature should be used to admit all young people at the same time and allows the host discretion as to who can attend. The host should end the meeting for all at the same time, rather than encourage participates to leave gradually themselves.
9. Private chat facilities should be turned off in advance of the meeting.
10. The meeting should not be recorded.
11. If any non-Garda vetted adults who are not parents join the call, this ought to be by invitation only and never without the attendance of both Garda-vetted adults.

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