

Charter Practices : Celebration & Recognition

We believe that it is important to recognise and celebrate the important work that is being undertaken with our children, youth and families ministry. This not only affirms and values those working with children and young people, but raises the profile within the church of the children and young people themselves.

Jesus paid special attention to children in his ministry. Whether to bless them (Mark 10:13-16) or to remind his disciples that unless they become like one they won't enter the Kingdom (Matthew 18:3). Those with the set apart task of nurturing the growing faith of the youngest among us also need our careened attention.

(Start Here) : *Just adopted the charter? It isn't about agreeing with a document, but more about the way the practices become part of our church life together and shape the kind of support we offer to both salaried and volunteer children's and youth ministers. 'Start Here' is a straightforward way of putting the charter in to practice.*

Starting Practice -

- We hold an annual children's, youth, families ministry Sunday where the work of the team is publicly acknowledged and celebrated - this includes input from children, young people and wider community.

(Developed practice) : *Keen to move things along? Once the starting practices have become embedded, start to add the following when you feel ready.*

Developing Practice -

- The children's, youth, families minister(s) are involved in planning / strategy meetings and decision making that is going to have an impact on children, young people and families.
- We host an annual social gathering for everyone involved in children's, youth and family ministry (whether salaried or volunteer) to say thank you for all their time and effort over the year.
- We publicly and privately honouring our worker(s) and volunteers and ensuring a member of the church leadership team visits all the projects they are involved in at least once a term.
- We actively take part in the national week of recognition in July. Joining in reminds us that our local ministry is part of the wider work with children, young people and families of the Church of England as a whole.

(Add your own) : *The starting and developing practices are ideas to get you off and running, we would love you to add your own practices and then share them with us so we can share them with others.*


