Job Description and Purpose Overview of Children’s Advocates in the Parish of St Paul, Wokingham

We are churches made up of people of all ages. All of us are equally precious to God and equally vital to the well-being and deepening of our community.

The Children’s Advocates are appointed by the PCC to ensure that we are doing all we can to be the communities we claim to be - inclusive, welcoming and friendly, and a place where everyone is kept safe and enabled to flourish.

The role of the Children’s Advocates is, in a sense, to make themselves redundant by ensuring that every voice and opinion is heard irrespective of age or experience, and as role models helping to embed excellence in safeguarding.

To be more precise, the Children’s Advocates

1. are people who get to know the families and children in Church and make them welcome,
2. ensure that the church is hearing and attending to the voices of those who are not on the PCC,
3. make sure that the PCC and leadership are properly thinking of children and young people as they lead the church,
4. gathers the ideas and thoughts of the church young people (CYP) and their families together, in case there is something prophetic the whole church need to listen to, as well as hearing their experience of being part of the church family,
5. enact initiatives from the PCC in such a way to make the CYP and their families feel integrated into the wider church and its activities and vision.

All of this role is about being relational and about understanding how Churches function and make decisions. The Children’s Advocates will likely find themselves in a place and relationship where they might be trusted by children and young people, especially if they need a safe adult to talk to, and therefore the Children’s Advocates need to work closely with clergy and wardens as well as the Safeguarding Officer for the parish.

The Clergy and Children’s Advocates: August 2023