



Process for Becoming a Kids Friendly Church

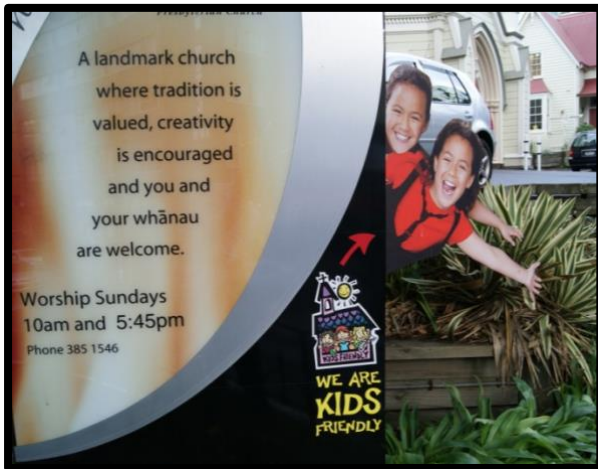
1. **Invite the Kids Friendly coach** to share the Kids Friendly vision with the Session/Parish Council and/or congregation.
2. Session/Parish Council and minister **join the Kids Friendly Network and contract to work to become a Kids Friendly Church** by signing the Kids Friendly pledge and sending their one-off joining fee of \$75.
3. Session and minister/children's minister **form a "Dream Team"** including the minister, representatives from:
 - a) the children's ministry team,
 - b) the session/parish council
 - c) parents
 - d) any other interested people (often wise to include "gatekeepers" too as it is best to invite them on the journey from the start).
4. **Schedule meetings** for the "Kids Friendly Dream Team" to review the church's children's ministry and set goals to become "Kids Friendly" using the **Kids Friendly Ideals and Self-review** resource.

REVIEW MEETINGS:

- Should ideally be no longer than 1.5 hours and should be scheduled regularly enough to keep the momentum going.
- Use the **Kids Friendly Ideals** and Self-review resource to guide and document your conversation/brainstorm.
- Encourage honest discussion and accept all views as valid.
- Minute the discussions and goals and share with the Session/Parish Council (there is an electronic version of the review resource available to simplify this.)
- Set goals and allocate responsibility for achieving them.
- Contact the Kids Friendly Coach if you have any queries or require coaching, resources or training to help you achieve your goals.



The Kids Friendly Ideals



Kids Friendly Churches have:

- ☺ A Heart for Children
- ☺ Vision
- ☺ Kids Friendly Sundays
- ☺ Mission Culture
- ☺ Valued Children
- ☺ Valued Children's Ministry Leaders
- ☺ A Safe and Healthy Environment
- ☺ A Partnership with Parents
- ☺ A Commitment to Self Review
- ☺ A Kids Friendly Minister

5. **Share your intent** to become a Kids Friendly church and your progress with your congregation.

Here are some ideas for communicating your Kids Friendly commitment and process:

- Include a statement in your order of service (see example below), or in your digital notices.



E.g., St Peter's is working to become a Kids Friendly Church

We value and celebrate children and encourage participation and contributions by young people. We are currently working with the Kids Friendly Coach to review our ministry to and with children. We will be looking at how we worship with and disciple children and how we connect with and serve the children and families of our community. This is an exciting journey. We welcome your feedback and support in our endeavours. If you would like to know more speak to Christine our minister or Stephanie our Children's Ministry Co-ordinator or members of our Session.

- Erect a Kids Friendly notice board displaying the Kids Friendly ideals and progress. (Ask Kids Friendly for digital logos if required).
- Include a Kids Friendly page in your church newsletter explaining your intent to become Kids Friendly, sharing goals you are working towards etc.
- Preach on the importance of children to healthy congregations. (Ministry with children is key to our church's mission: scriptures command it and statistics and research prove it.)
- Encourage your leaders to role model Kids Friendly-ness.



- 6.** Encourage your congregation's positive feedback.
- 7.** Once you believe you are meeting the Kids Friendly ideals submit your review documentation for Kids Friendly assessment.
- 8.** Share your resources, stories and experiences with Kids Friendly and other Presbyterian/Union churches.
- 9.** Once you are assessed Kids Friendly "brand" your church and all communication "Kids Friendly".
- 10.** Remember Kids Friendly is not a destination, but a journey that requires ongoing review.