

Risk assessment: Tots in the Garden

Church: St Mary's Linton	Assessor's name: Sarah Thorne	Date completed: 9 th April 2021	Review date: 21 st May 2021
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This risk assessment is for re-opening the church support group for carers of babies, toddlers and pre-school children on 14th April 2021. We move into Step 2 of the government roadmap guidance on April 12th 2021.

Guidance was accessed on [Church of England Coronavirus pages](#) [Government guidance](#) [Government guidance:actions-for-early-years-providers](#) [National Youth Agency guidance](#) [Early Years Alliance Guidance](#)

Parent and child groups are permissible indoors or outdoors from 12 April. Government guidance encourages risk reduction by 'Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air' consideration.

What is the Hazard?	Control measures: How can we reduce the risk identified?	Additional information	Action by whom?	Completed – date and name
Risk: infected people bringing the virus to the group	Comply with government guidance on self-isolation Ask symptomatic people not to attend	Communicate government guidance to get a PCR test and stay at home	AST – via Facebook and church website	
Risk: to group members and team of contracting the virus and becoming ill or	Children are at low risk of serious illness. Helpers are mostly in high-risk category but have now received at least one dose of vaccine. Pregnant women at moderate risk. Greatest risk in third trimester.	Helpers to be asked to confirm they understand risk Pregnant women should check with their midwife before attending	AST	

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spreading the virus to others	QR code for NHS Test and Trace provided on entry. QR code scanning will be encouraged to enable NHS Test and Trace. A paper option will be provided for those who cannot use that system.	As per St Mary's PCC resolution Keep paper record for 21 days in line with GDPR and government guidance	CW	
	Use of signage to reinforce covid-secure requirements	Church of England posters	CW	
	Hands: Team member to welcome and sign families in.	Cannot use usual signing in book during covid Signing in sheet to include contact details.	AST	
	Fresh Air: Outdoor venue will reduce risk of transmission.	Session to last one hour.		
	Space: Maximum 15 adults, plus children. This number does not include helpers.	Booking via Facebook or email	AST	
	Space: Comply with Social distancing guidelines set by the government (2m or 1m with risk mitigation if 2m not possible) between adults. Arrange chairs and activities at 2m distance Arrivals at gate to community peace garden potential bottleneck – will need careful stewarding by team to ensure safe distance when queueing	The exceptions are to meet any welfare or health and safety needs. Under 5s are not expected to maintain distancing	AST	

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	<p>Space: Singing is now allowed as long as only the group leader and children sing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoors if possible • Limit sharing instruments 	DfE guidance updated 29 March 21.		
	<p>Hands: Good hand hygiene. Hand sanitiser to be used on entry, between activities and on leaving</p>	Good hand hygiene will reduce spread of virus. Washing with soap and water not practical in setting.		
	<p>Hands: No food or drink to be served</p>	Families to be asked to bring their own refreshments	AST	
	<p>Hands: All equipment including tables, chairs, toys to be wiped with 70% alcohol spray or wipes or Milton solution made with 1 tablet in 500ml water https://www.milton-tm.com/en/consumer/covid-19-guidelines</p>	Encourage members to wipe toys after their child has played with them		
	<p>Face: Wearing of face coverings at parent and child groups is recommended where 2m social distancing is not possible.</p>	Wearing a face covering outdoors is not mandatory, but may reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets, helping to protect others. Exemptions to wearing a face covering are recognised: gov.uk/face covering exemptions		

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	Hygiene of toilet facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough cleaning before session starts. • Check that toilet facilities have adequate soap provision and paper towels, and a bin for the paper towels. • Thorough clean at end of session including door handles 	Cleaning materials provided by St Marys church	AST	
	Ensure all waste receptacles have disposable liners (e.g. polythene bin bags) to reduce the risk to those responsible for removing them.	Follow church covid guidance	AST	
Use of outdoor space Risk: unusual use of churchyard and pavilion garden	Uneven surfaces of footpaths. Written warning: <i>Please take care moving around the churchyard. The paths around the church are uneven and may be slippery, especially if wet.</i>	Printed warning to be available at welcome table. Also published on Facebook page and website.	AST	
	Possible nettles or other stinging/biting plants or animals. Written warning: <i>The garden is home to creatures and plants that may bite or sting.</i>	Church First Aid kit may be used by first-aid qualified people only.		
	Access by public. The community peace garden will be closed to the public during the session. Two public footpaths cross the churchyard so it will not be possible to secure the site completely. Written warning: <i>Please remember that the footpaths across the churchyard remain open to the public. Please keep children under close supervision.</i>	As above	AST	
	Access to river. Footpath crosses the river at south boundary of churchyard. Written warning:	As above	AST	

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	<i>The river can be accessed easily once out of the garden – there is no gate!</i>			
	Wet weather. Session will need to be cancelled	Use Social media to spread the message	AST	
Changes to usual routine of group Risk: families will not engage with changes or be anxious about coming	Information will be published in advance by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook • Church website • Communicating when they book So families know the steps we and they need to take to minimise risk.		AST	