

Guidelines for the Admission of Children to Communion:

(please refer queries to the Diocesan Development Officer for Children's Work –
Sr Sandra Doore 0191 270 4151 or 0191 236 2385 s.doore@newcastle.anglican.org)

How to begin.

1. The incumbent should discuss the issue of admitting children to Holy Communion with the church PCC or DCC in the first instance. The Diocesan Development Officer for Children's Work is available to attend your PCC/DCC to aid this discussion.
2. Once the Incumbent and PCC/DCC are in agreement with the discussion, this should be extended to a parish consultation that includes adults, children and their leaders and ecumenical partners.
3. Following the consultation the PCC/DCC will need to fill in the Diocesan Parish Application Form (available on the Diocesan website or from the Diocesan Development Officer for Children's Work.)
4. The PCC/DCC will need to vote on this issue and look at the formal preparation of the congregation - both the adults and the children. Material is available from the DDOCW.
5. Once the form has been filled in, it is advisable to discuss this with the DDOCW before sending it off to the Bishop of Newcastle.

When a child moves parish.

1. If a communicant child in your parish is moving to another church, you will need to inform the new incumbent that the child is receiving communion. This will lessen any embarrassment that the family and incumbent may feel due to the child being refused.
2. The child's baptism certificate should have been signed and dated when he/she was admitted for the first time or he/she should have been issued with a Holy Communion Certificate. His/her name should also be on a register that is kept by the parish.

When a communicant child arrives at your church.

1. If your parish already admits children to communion before confirmation, you will need to get assurance from their previous incumbent that they have been receiving Holy Communion. Their baptism certificate should have been countersigned when they first received communion or they should have been issued with a Holy Communion Certificate. Their name should also have been put onto a register at their previous church.
2. If your parish has not applied to admit children to communion before confirmation, you will also need to continue to administer communion to this child at your church after the initial checks have been made (see above). This is in accordance with the regulations from General Synod (GS Misc 488). This may also be a good time to discuss the issue of children and communion at your PCC/DCC or with the Diocesan Development Officer for Children's Work.