

Policy on the Safeguarding of Children in the Church

This statement was adopted by Holy Sepulchre, Cambridge at a Parochial Church Council meeting held on 8th July 2019.

The PCC affirms the principles of the House of Bishops' Policy for Safeguarding Children (contained in *Protecting All God's Children*) and is committed to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of the children and young people in its care. The PCC will:

- Appoint a Child Safeguarding Coordinator to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures. The Coordinator is currently Tom Hutchings (tom.hutchings@stag.org; 07483 272231).
- The coordinator will ensure that any concerns about a child or the behaviour of an adult are appropriately reported both to the statutory agencies and to the relevant Archdeacon. The Coordinator, if not a member of the PCC, will have the right to attend its meetings and will report to it at least annually on the implementation of this policy.
- Ensure that a person is nominated to act as somebody to whom children may talk to about any problems, if they so wish. This person will be known as the Independent Person or Children's Advocate and will, if possible, be somebody who is accessible to the children and who does not have responsibilities for children within the parish. Mary Burdett is the Children's Advocate (01223 364458).
- Display in church premises where children's activities take place the contact details of the Coordinator and Independent Person/Children's Advocate, along with the Childline and Family Lives telephone numbers and web addresses. A copy of this statement of policy will also be displayed in such places.
- Ensure that all those authorised to work with children or who are in a position of authority are appropriately recruited according to safer recruitment practice in line with Church of England national policy, and are trained, resourced and supported. This will include providing them with a copy of this policy and other relevant guidelines.
- Ensure that only authorized people work with children and that all work with children is carried out within appropriate accountability structures.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Work to create a culture of informed vigilance which takes children seriously.
- Pay particular attention to children with special needs and those from ethnic minorities to ensure their full integration and protection within the church community.
- Ensure that those who may pose a threat to children and young people are effectively managed and monitored.
- Ensure that a health and safety policy and the appropriate procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed periodically.
- Act without delay on allegations or suspicions of abuse using the procedure laid down by the Diocese of Ely.
- Respond without delay to any complaints received regarding children's work or the safeguarding of children.
- Ensure that all new PCC members have access to this policy and other relevant guidelines so that they are aware of their responsibilities.
- Cooperate fully with investigations by statutory agencies and will not conduct its own investigations.

- Seek to offer informed pastoral care to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.
- Care for and supervise any member of the church community known to have offended against a child while maintaining appropriate confidentiality.
- Review the implementation of the child protection policy, procedures and practices at least annually. The next review of this policy is due in: July 2020.

Incumbent

Churchwarden

Churchwarden

Date