



Health and Safety Policy Safeguarding - Statement

Parish of Parks & Walcot

St John the Baptist, Park North & St Andrew, Walcot (hereinafter The Church)

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults

Introduction

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

This policy is separate from but forms part of all our Health & Safety Policy statements and procedures: -Accessibility, General and Lone Worker and should be read alongside those documents in addition they should be noted as having due regard to Church of England and Bristol Diocese best practise.

A copy of this statement and the procedures will be kept in the church and all members of church and any other person using our premises will be encouraged to read this and all our Policies.

Policy Statement of Responsibility - PCC

While the work itself may be delegated as appropriate, we the PCC accept that we have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that this policy is implemented, therefore we will: -

- Nominate a Safeguarding Officer
- Ensure that the training needs of PCC, staff and volunteers are met as described in the Diocese of Bristol Safeguarding Training Framework. Carefully selecting and training all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- We will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice in relation to this policy following procedures and guidance and reviewing or updating at least annually regularly in order to reflect current legislation guidance.
- Nominate one member to link with the Parish Safeguarding Officer to receive reports, ensure regular agenda space for safeguarding and to inform the PCC of any updates and issues.
- Support the work of the Parish Safeguarding Officer and those responsible for work with children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable.



- Create an atmosphere which provide a safe, caring, loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse, where the safeguarding and protection of all vulnerable people is monitored.
- Pay due regard to the beliefs and wishes of adults and children both when a safeguarding concern arises and, in the development, and delivery of church led activities including worship, ensuring the care, nurture and a respectful pastoral ministry is undertaken for all people
- We will respond without delay to every concern raised which suggests that an adult, child, or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person, or vulnerable adult.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him, or her, an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently within the church and available on the Parish website.
- Ensure each worker with children and young people whether paid or voluntary is given access to a full copy of the policy and associated Good Practice Guidance and is required to follow them and will issue a full copy on request, to any member of the church, the parents or carers of any child or young person from the church or any other person associated with the church or community.

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) as agreed at a meeting on: -

Date: November 2021

Signed: *Phil Ashby*

Print Name: Rev Phil Ashby

Review Date: November 2022

Please contact the parish office on 01793 574924 or 07305849090 (Monday to Thursday) to obtain a full copy of our Safeguarding policy procedures and guidelines. Further information about Safeguarding within the Bristol Diocese can be found on the Bristol Diocese website: -

(<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/churchlife/safeguarding/>)