

Parish of St Mary, Tickhill

Safeguarding Children Policy

Statement of Aims

Our aims are:

- To welcome children and young people into the church fellowship and encourage them to take a full part in the church's life and worship.
- To enable them to learn about the love of God as demonstrated through Jesus Christ – done equally well through formal teaching and also by example of the whole church and specific events e.g. social evenings / camps/ visits.
- To provide a safe and secure environment for these things to happen, whether in church or elsewhere.
- To help young people realise their full potential and become responsible adults.
- To promote equality of opportunity for all.

This document covers the work of this parish with children and young people, in its services and in the groups meeting throughout the week.

Currently these groups are

- Rocks and Pebbles (2-10 years. Sunday 10.30-11.30am)
- Pathfinders (10 -18 years. Sunday 10.30-11.30am)
- Church Mice (Pre-school age children. First Friday in the month. 2.15pm)
- Choir (6 years upwards. Friday 6.00-7.00pm)

This policy also covers any work undertaken outside of the church buildings carried out under the auspices of the PCC.

Policy Statement

This PCC adopts the policy statement of the Diocese and will have due regard to Safeguarding Guidance issued by the House of Bishops. The PCC expects all church workers to follow its Safeguarding Children's Policy and will display it in a prominent place on church premises.

Application of the Policy

All new workers, whether paid or voluntary, working with church-based organisations, will be informed of the policy by the vicar, the Safeguarding Children Officer or the group leader. They will be expected to accept the policy and guidelines and work according to their requirements. All new members of the PCC will be required to accept the policy and guidelines. The PCC will appoint a group to oversee the policy, and it will be placed on the agenda of the PCC at least annually to review. (Usually in March at the PCC prior to the Annual Church Meeting). This PCC will appoint a Safeguarding Children's Officer and will inform the Church House administrator of their details.

Church Premises

Any organisation booking the use of church premises will be informed of the need to observe the policy via a statement on the Booking Form. They should be expected to confirm they have a Safeguarding Policy and appropriate insurance. Individuals booking church premises for private functions will have the policy brought to their attention and accept their responsibility for protecting children at that function.

Recruitment

The PCC will follow the Recruitment process included in the Safeguarding Children Policy. References, the Confidential Declaration and a DBS via the Diocesan system will be obtained. Appointment to any post, paid or voluntary, will not be made until these processes are complete. All appointments will be made on a conditional basis until the completion of a satisfactory probationary period. All those working with children and young people will follow the good practice guidelines in the Diocesan Safeguarding Children Policy and Guidelines.

Registration and Parental Consent

All groups will keep a register of those attending each session. Parental consent forms, including emergency contact details, must be completed for all participants, and must be available to group leaders whenever the group meets. This applies to all groups, whether meeting on church premises or elsewhere. When a group leaves the premises the Diocesan Activity Sheet must be completed additionally for all participants.

Insurance

The PCC will ensure that there is adequate insurance cover for all activities for children and young people.

Fire Regulations and Security

All group leaders will be aware of fire regulations and the position of fire extinguishers and fire exits. They will be vigilant as to the presence of anyone on the premises during the meetings of the groups. They should know who to contact in an emergency relating to the building; usually the vicar or churchwardens.

Food and Hygiene

If any group is involved in the preparation or selling of food, at least one leader should have completed the food hygiene and food safety course to ensure good practice is followed.

First Aid and Accidents

Each group will have at least one adult present who has attended a basic course on first aid. There should be a properly stocked first aid kit accessible to each group. In the event of any accident, an incident and accident report form should be completed. This should be kept securely in a marked file. Parents should also be informed of any accident.

Providing an Independent Person

Children and young people should have the opportunity to raise any concerns about any health and safety or protection matters. A notice will be placed on the noticeboard and/or entrance to the church and to all church premises with the name of the parish Safeguarding Officer, Childline telephone number and of any other independent person the parish appoints to afford this opportunity.

Allegations

If an allegation is received concerning the behaviour of an adult, the Diocesan Allegations Policy (a copy of which can be found in the Safeguarding Children Policy) will be followed.

Concerns about or Reported by a Child

This parish will follow the Diocesan Guidelines and report the concern to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, or to the appropriate Archdeacon.

Review

Children's and young people's workers will meet to review their work on an annual basis, prior to the March meeting of the PCC. This should include a review of child protection issues and health & safety issues relating to each group. Notification of this meeting should be reported to the PCC. The Parish Safeguarding Children's Officer will review the parish policy annually and report to the PCC who will record this review in their minutes. The PCC will inform the archdeacon via the visitation that this has been done. A copy of the current Parish Safeguarding Policy should be sent to the Archdeacon for inclusion in the parish file. A further copy should be sent if there are substantial amendments.

Training

Group leaders will be encouraged to attend the Safeguarding training provided by the Diocese. The parish will consider its training needs at the time it reviews the Safeguarding Policy. If specific needs are identified the parish will consult with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.