

# **The Child Protection Policy Statement of the Church of England**

The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will champion the protection of children and young people both in society as a whole and in its own community. It fully accepts, endorses and will implement the principles enshrined in The Children Act 1989 that the welfare of the child is paramount. The Church of England will foster and encourage best practice within its community by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents in the care of their children. It will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well being of children and young people. It is committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory body when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

## **Children and Young People Safeguarding:**

1995 – House of Bishops produced first child protection policy document (in response to the Home Office's 1993 document *Safe from Harm*)

1999 and 2004 – policy revised

2010 – Latest policy *Protecting All God's Children*

2017 - policy incorporated into the joint safeguarding policy *Promoting a Safer Church*

The policy is in place to protect not only children and young people, but also those adults who are committed to working with and for them.

## **The Diocese of St Albans**

The Diocese of St Albans has adopted and fully supports this policy statement.

## **Parish of New Barnet, St James**

New Barnet, St James's Parochial Church Council has adopted and fully supports the Child Protection Policy Statement of the Church of England and the Safeguarding Guidance set out by the Diocese of St Albans.

## **Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

### **Introduction**

The guiding principle of our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is that at all times their safety and care must be paramount.

Sadly it is a fact that adults will attempt to infiltrate any organisation to abuse children or young people. The church is probably no more vulnerable than other organisations, but is unique in its ministry to both those who have been abused and those who have abused. We therefore need to create and maintain a culture of informed vigilance to safeguard and promote the welfare of our children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This can be achieved by a number of means, the most relevant to this document being safe recruitment and responding appropriately and proportionately to concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult, or concerns about the behaviour of an adult towards a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

## **Parish of New Barnet St James in the Church of England Diocese of St Albans**

This Policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meeting held on **1 April 2019**

### **Parish Policy for Safeguarding of Children , Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 1) We agree to adopt the **Church of England's National Policies and Practice Guidance for Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults** [Appendix A].
- 2) We are committed to implementing a safeguarding children policy and accepting the Church of England Policy **Protecting All God's Children (4<sup>th</sup> edition 2010) and Promoting a Safer Church (2017)** [Appendix A] and to be responsive to local parish requirements.
- 3) We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that all adults should be offered respect and given inclusion and empowerment within the church.
- 4) We are committed to implementing a safeguarding policy for adults when they are vulnerable accepting the Church of England Policy on **Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults (Promoting a Safe Church 2006) and Promoting a Safer Church (2017)** [Appendix A] and to be responsive to local parish requirements.
- 5) We will review and endorse all safeguarding policies annually so that all members are aware of their responsibilities.
- 6) The highest standards will be maintained in all the church's contacts with children, young people and vulnerable adults and adult volunteers will be given appropriate support and opportunities for training.
- 7) We will carefully select those working with vulnerable groups and these workers will be given appropriate support and opportunities for training.
- 8) We will regularly review those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.
- 9) It is the responsibility of each of us in the church to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.

- 10) We will respond without delay to every complaint made that a child or young person or vulnerable adult for whom we are responsible may have been harmed.
- 11) This Parish will co-operate fully with the statutory agencies in every situation and will not conduct its own investigations.
- 12) We will seek to offer informed pastoral care to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.
- 13) We will care for and supervise any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or known to have offended in a manner which could affect adults who are vulnerable.
- 14) Each person who works with children, young people and vulnerable adults will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.
- 15) The PCC acknowledges its responsibility for all work with children, young people and vulnerable adults done in the name of the church and requires all those engaged in such work to be properly appointed and supported in accordance with the Church of England Practice Guidance: **Safer Recruitment (July 2016)** [listed in Appendix A].
- 16) We agree to adopt the Best Practice Guidelines as provided by the Diocese of St Albans [listed in Appendix A, with updates provided on the Diocesan website [here](#), and with local implementation outlines in Appendix B]
- 17) We will authorise annually, at the review of this policy, **Children's and Youth Programmes and Activities at St James** [Appendix C] carried out on behalf of the PCC.

We have appointed as our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults: **Jennifer Robinson-Beswick**

**Telephone:** 07530188773

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Signed

**Incumbent** .....

**Church Warden** .....

## **Appendix A – Church of England’s National Policies and Practice Guidance for Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults.**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/safeguarding-children-vulnerable-adults/national-policy-practice-guidance.aspx>

### **Policy Statements**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Name of Document</u></b>	<b><u>No. of Pages</u></b>
1.	<a href="#">Protecting All God's Children (safeguarding policy for children and young people, 4th edition, 2010)</a>	<b>84</b>
2.	<a href="#">Promoting a Safe Church (safeguarding policy for adults) 2006</a>	<b>64</b>
3.	<a href="#">Promoting a Safer Church 2017 – Safeguarding Policy Statement of the Church of England</a>	<b>7</b>

### **Practice Guidance**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Name of Document</u></b>	<b><u>No. of Pages</u></b>
4.	<a href="#">Safeguarding Training &amp; Development Practice Guidance (2017)</a>	<b>28</b>
5.	<a href="#">Responding to Serious Safeguarding Situations (2015)Risk Assessment for Individuals who may Pose Risk to Children or Adults (2015)</a>	<b>33</b>
6.	<a href="#">Risk Assessment for Individuals who may Pose Risk to Children or Adults (2015)</a>	<b>39</b>
7.	<a href="#">Safer Recruitment (2016)</a>	<b>34</b>
7.	<a href="#">DBS Eligibility and related matters - Frequently Asked Questions - 2016</a>	<b>9</b>
9.	<a href="#">Safeguarding in Religious Communities (2015)</a>	<b>11</b>

10.	<a href="#"><u>Responding to Domestic Abuse (guidelines for those with pastoral responsibility, 2006)</u></a>	<b>64</b>
11.	<a href="#"><u>Responding Well (policy and guidance for the church of England, 2014)</u></a>	<b>69</b>

## Joint Practice Guidance with The Methodist Church

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name of Document</u>	<u>No. of Pages</u>
12.	<a href="#"><u>Safeguarding Records: Joint Practice Guidance for the Church of England and the Methodist Church (2015)</u></a>	<b>13</b>
13.	<a href="#"><u>Safeguarding Guidance for Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnerships (2015)</u></a>	<b>4</b>

## **Appendix B – St James implementation of Best Practice Guidelines (Revised September 2016)**

### **Adult: Child Ratios**

The guidelines on ratios for adults working with children are as follows:

0-2 years	1 adult for every 3 children
2-3 years	1 adult for every 4 children
3-8 years	1 adult for every 8 children
Over 8 years	1 adult for the first 8 children and then 1 extra adult for every extra 12 children

<b>Note:</b>	The number of adults will be increased for outdoor activities
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## **Appendix C – Children's and Youth Programmes and Activities at St James**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Responsible Person(s)</b>
Overall responsibility	Paul Robinson-Beswick, Youth and Children's Pastor
Sunday service crèche (age 0-4)	Paul Robinson-Beswick
Sunday Kidschurch (age 5-16)	Paul Robinson-Beswick
The Zone (age 7-11)	Paul Robinson-Beswick
Msg (aged 11-18)	Paul Robinson-Beswick
Girls' Bible Study	Marion Storey and Bukky Akinjogbin
Children's Day	Paul Robinson-Beswick and Carol Connah
Boys' Bible Study	Paul Robinson-Beswick
Baby and Toddlers	Paul Robinson-Beswick
Our Place	Becky Craggs
Mentoring	Paul Robinson-Beswick

Note 1: External trips arranged within groups are also covered in these activities.

Note 2: Programmes and activities that are outside the regular events undertaken by any of the above groups and involve children or young people aged up to 18 years of age require individual authorisation by the PCC or the Standing Committee.