

St John the Divine, Rastrick

Child Protection Policy Document

Rationale

Why do we need a Child Protection Policy? Children and young people have the right to be safe from harm as they learn and play. Through good practice in its work with children/young people St John's aims to provide a secure and supportive environment in which children can develop and be helped towards a mature faith in Christ (cf. Matthew 18 v6: Mark 9 v 37: Luke 9 v 48)

Aims and Objectives

The PCC of St John's have formally adopted the Child Protection Policy of the Church of England as laid out in the document entitled "Protecting all God's Children" (2004). This states that:

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 principle 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 bodies when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

The PCC will continue to ensure that it meets its responsibilities, as outlined in the above document by:

- Adopting recommended child protection procedures in line with the Diocesan Code of Good Practice;
- Appointing a co-ordinator and a children's advocate to work with the PCC and Incumbent to implement child protection procedures;
- Displaying the Childline number;
- Ensuring all teachers/leaders have a job description;
- Ensuring all teachers/leaders/helpers working with children/young people have a current Criminal Records Bureau check (applied for under the Diocesan umbrella organisation) and have completed and signed a self-declaration form. These are reviewed annually to ensure changes are recorded. The Incumbent keeps these forms and records in a secure place;
- Ensuring all teachers/leaders working with children are offered training on child protection, health and safety and child development and that they have a copy of the parish Child Protection Policy and Good Practice guidelines;
- Ensuring all working with children are supported in their work;
- Ensuring children with special educational or physical needs/different ethnic backgrounds have equal access;

- Ensuring that the Parish’s Health and Safety Policy is followed. Before any activity involving children takes place each activity is risk assessed using a separate checklist.
- Ensuring appropriate insurance cover for parish activities involving children;
- Ensuring that any uniformed organisations sponsored by St John’s are affiliated to their National Organisations and have completed the necessary checks required by that organisation;
- Creating a culture of “informed vigilance” which takes children seriously;
- Ensuring appropriate care is provided for adults who have been abused as children and for the parents of children who have suffered abuse;
- Reviewing the Child Protection Policy annually at a PCC meeting.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy will be monitored by the Child Protection Co-ordinator yearly. This monitoring will include discussion with the Junior Church Co-ordinator and Incumbent to ascertain the effectiveness of policies and procedures.

Review

The PCC will review the policy annually at the meeting prior to the APCM and will implement any changes at that time.

Approval

This policy was approved by the PCC on

(Minute reference)

Signed Chair of PCC

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