



POLICY STATEMENT

Safeguarding Children and Young People and Adults

St Mary's Church, Lydiard Tregoze, in the Parish of West Swindon & Lydiard Tregoze: (hereinafter referred to as 'the church' in the Policy Statement)

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture;
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church;
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation;
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons;
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons; and
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent Revd Capt. Clive Deverell and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and DCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse in line with the Church of England Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance, 2021 and provide ongoing supervision, support and training.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.

- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.
- Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

Policy and procedures

- A copy of this policy statement will be displayed permanently within the church and be available on the Parish website.
- Each worker with children and young people whether paid or voluntary will be given access to a full copy of the parish policy and procedure and associated Good Practice Guidance and will be expected to follow them.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available 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 It is also available on the Parish website.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually by the PCC/ DCC.

This policy must be read alongside the Good Practice Guidance relevant to the group a worker is involved with and with the Code of Conduct for church members.

Revd Capt. Clive Deverell.....Date:....17.3.2024.....

Churchwarden(s)

..Jacqueline Kirwan.....

...Pat Watson.....

Code of Conduct for Church Members

This code of behaviour should not only be seen as an important safeguarding measure but should also be about modelling positive patterns of Christian behaviour.

The following guidelines should be followed at all times, irrespective of circumstance:

- Follow the Church Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and associated Good Practice Guidelines at all times.
- Treat all children, young people and adults with respect and dignity. Acts of aggression, bullying or harassment are not acceptable.
- **Physical Contact:** Remember that not all children and adults will receive or express friendship in the same way. Encourage handshaking rather than hugging as a greeting with children, any physical contact with children should be child led. Be careful about what physical contact you have with adults and check whether they are happy with the contact.
- All control and discipline of children should only be given by parents and carers and without the use of physical punishment or any form of aggression. Unless the child's parents or carers have requested assistance with this. Speak to the Churchwarden if you are concerned about a child's behaviour. The Churchwarden, and/ or member of the Ministry Team or Parish Safeguarding Officer will speak with a parent to agree how a child can be supported with their behaviour if needed.
- A child's own parent or carer should undertake any personal care that a child needs.
- Do not respond to or encourage excessive attention seeking from children, but do inform your Parish Safeguarding Officer if you are concerned about a child's behaviour towards you.
- Children and young people are expected to be accompanied to church by their parents and carers. The exception being designated youth activities.
- Where children and young people attend church or church events without a parent or carer they will need to be made known to the relevant children and young people's workers who will follow the Good Practice guidance for working with children and young people and also follow the Policy for Unaccompanied Children.
- Adults who have not been authorised to work with children and young people should not approach lone children except in the case of emergency, instead going to find a children's or young people's worker.

- We do not engage in any of the following:
 - Invading the privacy of children, young people or adults when they are using the toilet.
 - Rough games involving physical contact between an adult and a child.
 - Discriminatory activities or games focused on sexual behaviour, body image or sexuality.
 - Making any comment which could be sexually suggestive about or to another person.
 - Scapegoating, belittling, ridiculing or rejecting a child or adult.
 - Giving personal gifts directly to children or young people.
 - Inappropriate use of social media, text or mobile devices. Please do not contact children and young people using these methods unless their parents/ carers are aware of this and the reason for it. This includes becoming 'friends' with children on Facebook.
 - Taking photographs of children or young people at church events unless you have been authorised to do so and have parental/ carer consent or the picture is of your own child only.
 - Drink alcohol (other than communion wine) or otherwise be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when responsible for children or young people on church premises.
 - Arrange to see a child outside of church unless this is with their parents/ carers express permission and, if you are a church volunteer, officer, staff member or minister, where this is in line with the Good Practice guidance.
 - Enter the space in which a children's or youth group is happening. Only authorised staff and volunteers should be involved.

Signed:

Date: