

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Policy of St. Mary's Church (Bramall Lane) PCC

Policy statement

As people of the Church of England we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages. It is the responsibility of each one of us to protect children and young people from any physical, sexual or emotional abuse. It is the duty of a person working with children and young people to prevent abuse and to report any abuse, discovered or suspected.

Aims

Our aim is to bring children and young people on in their journey of faith and to enable them to think through faith and lifestyle choices by providing Bible based teaching for their minds and spirits.

Specifically we aim to :

- give them confidence in their faith
- celebrate with their friends and wider church family
- demonstrate how they are a part of the church
- help them to praise
- teach them to pray
- equip them with knowledge to take into adulthood
- to know their way around the Bible
- to meet God as Father Son and Holy Spirit
- To wonder, adore and think in quietness

This document covers the work of St. Mary's (Bramall Lane) with children and young people on Sundays, both on the premises and visiting other places and meeting in homes as part of the recognized Sunday provision for children and young people, Little Lights and Messy Church which meets during the week and all occasional Holiday Clubs and Light Factory special events which take place throughout the year.

Our policy covers activities which may take place away from the building but under the auspices of the church.

It does not cover any other work done at St. Mary's Church and Centre with children and young people for which there is a separate and specific Safeguarding Policy.

Staffing

Whenever possible there should be at least two adults present at each group location, and if the group is of mixed sex there should be a male and female leader present.

Where children are under the age of five the ratio of leaders to children should be 1:6

Under the age of eleven no less than 1:8

Children under the age of one year should have one adult to every two children but this situation does not usually arise since crèche currently operates with parents present.

Policy Statement

This P.C.C. adopts the policy statement of the Diocese and will display it prominently in all church premises. The P.C.C. expects all church workers to follow its Safeguarding Children Policy, a copy will be given to everyone who works with our children and young people.

Application of the Policy

All new workers, whether paid or voluntary, working for church-based organisations, will be informed of the policy by the Vicar, or the Safeguarding Representative. They will be expected to accept the policy and guidelines and work according to their requirements. All new members of the P.C.C. will be required to accept the policy and guidelines, and it will be placed on the Agenda of the P.C.C. at least annually for review. The P.C.C. will appoint a Safeguarding Representative and will inform Church House of their details.

Recruitment

The P.C.C. will follow the recruitment process included in the Diocesan 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

Registration and Parental consent forms, including emergency contact details, must be completed for all participants under 16 years old where there is no parent or guardian on the premises, and must be available to group leaders whenever the group meets.

Insurance

St Mary's insurance policies cover all groups and individuals for public liability and personal accident.

Fire Regulations and Security

All group leaders will be aware of fire regulations and the positions of fire extinguishers. 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 and all the options for how to exit the building safely.

First Aid and Accidents

Leaders must be aware of the adults in church who have 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 and other appropriate people eg clergy/centre staff 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 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 Adviser, or to the appropriate Archdeacon.

Review

All children and young people's workers will meet to review their work on at least an annual basis. This should include a review of child protection issues and health and safety issues relating to each group. Notification of this meeting should be reported to the P.C.C. The Parish Safeguarding Representative will review the parish policy annually and report to the P.C.C., who will record this review in their minutes. The P.C.C. 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 or by the Local Authority. 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 Adviser.

Use of Social Media

All those using social media, text messaging and e-mail to communicate with children and young people must follow the diocesan guidelines.

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