

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

SAFEGUARDING

POLICY

This policy needs to be read alongside the Church of England Safeguarding Policy Statement

Also with due regard to, and awareness of, Church of England documentation. See links below:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/policy-and-practice-guidance>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual>

RATIFIED BY THE PCC ON

July 2023

REVIEW DATE

July 2024

All Saints' Church Safeguarding Policy - information for paid employees and volunteers who will have contact with children and vulnerable adults.

All Saints' is a medium to large sized Anglican Church. We have a range of activities ranging from Creche for the very young, through to groups for our most senior members. All Saints' Church and Centre is used by many different groups for a wide variety of activities. The local community accesses the premises as well as members of All Saints'.

We would describe ourselves as an evangelical (Bible Believing) church, which seeks to support people come to faith, grow in their faith and to work out practically what day to day living involves for the Christian. Like the Diocesan Mission statement we want to know, love and follow Jesus.

All Saints' Church believes that we should provide our children with the highest standard of care and that the experience of growing up within the church family community should be enriching. We also believe that we have a duty of care to vulnerable adults.

To ensure that our children and vulnerable adults are looked after as well as possible and that **you** are not put in a vulnerable position, the PCC has agreed procedures and recommended good practice to be followed based on; Chichester Diocese Simple Quality Protects Safeguarding Documentation.

If you are called to work as a key volunteer in the Church:

- You will be asked to fill in a form that asks for contact details, relevant experience, relevant qualifications and you maybe asked to provide details of 2 referees.
- You will be given information about what your responsibilities will be and the expectations of the role.
- You will complete Basic Awareness, Foundation or Leadership Diocesan training as soon as possible and as is appropriate for your role.
- You will be asked to read the All Saints Safeguarding Policy and associated Diocesan Policies.
- You will need a satisfactory DBS check

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Church Office admin@allsaintseastbourne.com 01323 732823

Jo Whiteman Parish Safeguarding Officer Tel: 01323 734150 Mob: 07801436441

Local Police Protection Team Tel: 101 or 999 in an emergency

Colin Perkins Diocesan Safeguarding Officer Tel: 01273 425030/07500771210 or Victoria Martin
Deputy Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, casework, 01273 421021/07384257882

safeguarding@chichester.anglian.org

Local Children's Services Single Point of Advice Team 0-19spoa@eastsussex.gov.uk

Tel: 01323 464222

East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board SAB <https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/>

Tel: 03456080191

East Sussex Adult Social Care

For information on the adult social care portal

<https://adultsocialcare.eastsussex.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/presafeguardingpage>

The Leadership of All Saints' Church is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being.

Specifically:

- We recognise that **we all** have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- All children and young people have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable adults and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with children and vulnerable adults and follow safer recruitment principles in the form of the diocesan recruitment flowchart

How to Respond to Allegations and Concerns

What to do if a child discloses a safeguarding issue or makes an allegation.

- Listen and keep on listening.
- Don't question.
- Avoid passing judgement on what you are told.
- Never promise confidentiality.
- Explain what you intend to do and don't delay in taking action.
- Contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer Jo Whiteman 07801436441
- If you are unable to contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer ring Local Children's Services Single Point of Advice Team Office Tel: 01323 464222 0-19spoa@eastsussex.gov.uk or the Police on 101 asking for the local safeguarding team.
- As soon as possible write down objectively what the child has said. Sign and date and give to the safeguarding team.

What to do if a vulnerable adult discloses a safeguarding issue or makes an allegation.

- Listen and keep on listening.
- Don't question.
- Avoid passing judgement on what you are told.
- Never promise confidentiality.
- Explain what you intend to do and don't delay in taking action.
- Contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer Jo Whiteman 07801436441 If you are unable to contact the PSO ring East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board SAB <https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/> Tel: 03456080191 or the Police on 101 asking for the local safeguarding team.
- As soon as possible write down objectively what the vulnerable adult has said. Sign and date and give to the safeguarding team.

What to do if you have a concern, or are made aware of a concern, regarding a child.

- Record concerns objectively. Include where possible dates/times, the nature of the concern and the people involved. This includes the name of the person who reported the concern to you. You have a duty to pass on any concern you are made aware of to the Parish Safeguarding Officer.
- Sign and date and give to the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

What to do if you have a concern, or are made aware of a concern, regarding a vulnerable adult.

- Record concerns objectively. Include where possible dates/times, the nature of the concern and the people involved. This includes the name of the person who reported the concern to you. You have a duty to pass on any concern you are made aware of to the Parish Safeguarding Officer.
- Sign and date and give to the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Code of behaviour

All clergy, paid employees and volunteers should:

- Treat all children and young people with the respect and dignity befitting their age.
- Not be alone with a child under 18 years. There may be some circumstances however when this is agreed with parents for example music tuition. If the music lessons are undertaken in the name of the church the adult undertaking the tuition should have a DBS check, have read the church safeguarding policy and completed the appropriate level of safeguarding training.
- Not be alone with young people under 18 years or vulnerable adults visiting, learning and/or ringing the bells in the bell tower. They must have an accompanying adult, either a parent or adult, with DBS who is responsible for their safety and welfare. Tower Captains and trainers of under 18s or vulnerable adults must be: approved by the PCC, have been DBS checked and have completed an appropriate level of safeguarding training, Tower Captains need leadership training. Good liaison needs to be maintained between The Society, Sussex County Association of Change Ringers, and the PCC/ Parish Safeguarding Officer. An example of this could be advising each other of policy changes insofar as it relates to bell ringing.
- Watch their language, tone of voice and body language.
- Never use physical punishment, this must never be used even if they have the parent's explicit permission for this.
- Ensure that another adult is informed if a worker needs to take a child to the toilet. Toilet breaks should be organised for young children.
- If known in advance, a parent's permission must be sought if a child or young person is to be seen on his or her own. Another adult must be nearby and the child or young person must know this.
- Ensure that each group includes a female helper or has a female helper within calling distance.
- Ensure that children and young people know that they can speak to an independent person in the parish, or contact "**Childline**", if they need to talk to someone.
- Have the "**Childline**" telephone number prominently displayed: **0800 1111**.

Clergy, paid employees and volunteers should not:

- Invade a child's privacy whilst washing or toileting.
- Play rough physical or sexually provocative games.
- Be sexually suggestive about a child or to a young person, even in fun.
- Touch inappropriately or obtrusively.
- Scapegoat, ridicule or reject a child or young person.
- Show favouritism to any one child or young person or group.
- Allow a child or young people to involve the worker in excessive attention seeking that is overtly physical or sexual in nature.
- Give lifts to children or young people on their own. If this is unavoidable ask the child or young person to sit in the back of the vehicle.
- Share sleeping accommodation with young people.
- Invite a young person to the worker's home alone.
- Permit abusive peer activities, e.g. initiation ceremonies, ridiculing, bullying.
- Allow unknown adults access to children. Visitors should always be accompanied by a known person.

Be prepared for your colleagues to remind you if you forget any of the requirements of good practice and be prepared to help a colleague by advising them in return

Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for appointing a Parish Safeguarding Officer to be responsible under them for implementing the Diocesan policy in the Parish.

The representative will be responsible for:

- Implementing the Diocesan Policy.
- Making any extra recommendations required for the particular circumstances of the parish and having those agreed by the PCC.
- Receiving, with the incumbent, any concerns about children or adults in the parish and making sure that proper advice is sought and proper referrals made.
- Being the link person between the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer and the Parish.

The PSO may also be responsible for:

- Being the named independent person that children are encouraged to talk to
- Supporting the children's and young people's workers and pastoral team through regular meetings.
- Providing or arranging provision of training in safeguarding for key volunteers.

The PSO should work closely with the incumbent and is co-opted on to the PCC. He or she should make a report to the PCC at least once a year and also to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

At All Saints Church the Church Administrator administers the process of applying for DBS and associated checks.