



# Child Protection Policy

## (Abuse and Neglect)

### All Saints' Church, Walsoken

Please refer to Document S&S\_Doc\_001 for all Safeguarding and Social requirements.

## Specific Policy

This Safeguarding & Social (S&S) sub-policy ensures child protection at church.

### Introduction

All Saints' Church, Walsoken, in all aspects of its works, 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 of 1989 that the welfare of the child is paramount. We will foster and encourage best practice within our community by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents in the care of their children. We will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies to promote the safety and well-being of children and young people. We are committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult directly or indirectly adversely affecting a child or young person and will work with the appropriate statutory bodies when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

### The Parish Child Protection Policy Statement of the PCC (we will)

- 1) Safeguard, care and nurture the children within our church community.
- 2) Carefully select and train volunteers with children and young people using the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS), amongst other tools, to check the background of each person involved in regular church related events (where vulnerable children can attend) or at the discretion of the incumbent (where the law does not mandate).
- 3) Respond without delay to every complaint made, that a child or young person for whom we are responsible, may have been harmed.
- 4) Fully co-operate with statutory agencies during any investigation they make into allegations concerning a member of the church community.
- 5) Seek to offer informed pastoral care to any child or young person who has suffered abuse.
- 6) Care for and supervise any member of our church community known to have offended against a child.

## Reference Documents

The Children Act of 1989.

Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure 2021.

The House of Bishop's Policy on Safeguarding Children (Church of England).

## Procedure

### What is Child Abuse?

**Physical abuse:** Physical abuse is when someone hurts a child or young person on purpose. Examples are

- 1) Hitting, slapping, shaking or throwing.
- 2) Burning or scalding.
- 3) Drowning, suffocating or choking.
- 4) Pushing or kicking.
- 5) Inappropriate restraint or false imprisonment.
- 6) Using physical force to discipline.
- 7) Misusing medication.
- 8) Fabricating or inducing an illness or ill health.

**Signs and symptoms of physical abuse** in children can include:

- 1) unexplained recurrent injuries, marks or burns.
- 2) covering injuries with clothing even in hot weather.

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3) fear of physical contact and shrinking back if touched.

**Sexual abuse:** Sexual abuse is when a child is enticed or forced to take part in sexual activities. This kind of abuse does not always involve a high level of violence, and the child may or may not be aware of what is happening. The abuse may be committed by adult men and women, or by other children. Examples of sexual abuse are

- 1) Causing or inciting a child to watch or engage in sexual activities.
- 2) Encouraging a child to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- 3) Involving a child in looking at sexual images or videos.
- 4) Involving a child in the production of sexual images or videos.
- 5) Grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

**Signs and symptoms of sexual abuse** in children can include:

- 1) Extreme reactions such as depression, self-mutilation, suicide attempts, running away, overdoses or anorexia.
- 2) Personality changes such as becoming insecure or clinging.
- 3) Being isolated or withdrawn.
- 4) Medical problems such as chronic itching, pain in the genitals or venereal diseases.

**Emotional abuse:** Emotional abuse happens in many ways. It can affect how a young person or child feels about themselves, or how they fit in with friends, at school, or where they live. Examples of emotional abuse are:

- 1) Being made to feel inadequate, worthless or unloved.
- 2) Being unfairly blamed.
- 3) Being bullied, including over the internet (cyber-bullying).
- 4) Being made to feel frightened or in danger.
- 5) Witnessing the abuse of others such as domestic abuse.

**Signs and symptoms of emotional abuse** in children can include:

- 1) Reduced physical, mental and emotional development.
- 2) Continual self-deprecation, e.g. 'I'm stupid', 'I'm ugly', 'I'm worthless'.
- 3) Inappropriate response to pain, e.g. 'I deserve this'.
- 4) Neurotic behaviour, e.g. rocking, hair twisting or self-mutilation.

#### What is Child Neglect?

Neglect is when a child or young person's basic needs are persistently not being met by their parent or guardian. These basic needs include

- 1) Adequate food, clothing and shelter.
- 2) Protection from physical and emotional harm or danger.
- 3) Adequate supervision (including not being left at home alone).
- 4) Access to appropriate medical care including dental treatment.

**Signs and symptoms of neglect in children** can include

- 1) Constant hunger or tiredness.
- 2) Poor personal hygiene.
- 3) Poor condition and cleanliness of clothing.
- 4) Untreated medical problems.
- 5) No social relationships.

**In implementing this Child Protection Policy, the PCC is committed to the following principles (we will)**

- 1) Create a culture of 'informed vigilance' which takes children seriously.
- 2) Ensure that appropriate health and safety policies and procedures are in place.
- 3) Provide appropriate insurance cover for all activities undertaken in the name of the church.
- 4) Accept the prime duty of care placed upon the incumbent and PCC to ensure the wellbeing of children and young people in the church.

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- 5) Adopt and implement a child protection policy and procedures, accepting as a minimum the House of Bishop's Policy on Safeguarding Children but informed by additional Diocesan procedures and recommended good practice, whilst being responsive to local parish requirements.
- 6) Provide correct child to adult ratios for church events. See appendix 1.
- 7) Identify the Child Protection Advocate as our Safeguarding Officer. This role works with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures. The advocate must ensure that any concerns about a child or the behaviour of an adult are appropriately reported both to the statutory agencies and to the Diocesan Child Protection Adviser.
- 8) The Child Protection Advocate/ Safeguarding Officer is someone whom children know they could talk to about any problems, if they so wish.
- 9) Provide, as appropriate, support for all parents and families in the congregation, being aware particularly of parents whose children have suffered any abuse.
- 10) Ensure that those who may pose a threat to children and young people are effectively managed and monitored.
- 11) Display the "Childline" telephone number.
- 12) Ensure that all those authorised to work with children and young people, or in a position of authority, are appropriately appointed, trained and supported and provide all authorised personnel have access to the church vulnerable people policies etc.
- 13) Pay particular attention to children with special needs and those from ethnic minorities to ensure their full integration and protection within the church community.

Where minor safeguarding infringements become apparent the incumbent or churchwardens must seek behaviour modification from the person/s involved in the infringement to align with this policy, but where in minimum considerations any safeguarding law has been broken.

**Under no circumstances should anyone in the parish try to investigate an allegation of improper behaviour or potential harm involving a vulnerable person.**

The enforcing agencies must be contacted (by the incumbent, churchwardens or safeguarding officer) and allowed to investigate under the powers invested in them by the secretary of state (police, HSE, local authorities, health agencies etc.). Any such notification must be advised to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser or the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

## Forms

None

## Diagrams

None

## Appendices

Appendix 1. The recommended minimum staffing levels for children's groups

Age Range	Ratio
0 - 2 years	One adult for every 3 Children
2 - 3 years	One adult for every 4 Children
4 - 8 years	One adult for every 6 Children
9 - 12 years	One adult for every 8 Children
13 - 18 years	One adult for every 10 Children

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