



Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Ashwell
Safeguarding children & vulnerable adults
Policy Statement:



- 1) We are committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church; we aim to ensure that the House of Bishops Policy for children, young people and adults, 'Promoting a Safer Church' (2017), is promoted and adhered to by all those who serve God within our church.
- 2) St Mary's church will take appropriate steps to promote and maintain a safer environment for all and to practice fully and positively Christ's Ministry towards children, young people and adults; to respond sensitively and compassionately to their needs in order to help keep them safe from harm.
- 3) This parish accepts the principle of the Children Act 1989 & 2004 that the welfare of the child is paramount. We recognise the personal dignity and rights of all according to the Human Rights Act 1998 and the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 4) We follow a safe recruitment policy for all those applying to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults in a voluntary or paid capacity. All applicants will be required to complete a Confidential Declaration Form and will be subject to an enhanced DBS check. Church wardens and PCC members will be required to do the same. All related personal data will be used and stored securely and confidentially in line with data protection legislation.
- 5) All those working with children, young people or vulnerable adults will be asked to read the Safeguarding Policy and procedures, receive relevant training and sign a declaration of agreement. They will also be given practical advice as a means of protecting themselves and the children they work with. Those working with children and young persons' groups will aim to meet regularly to discuss concerns and share good practice.
- 6) Appropriate adult:child ratios will be maintained at all children's and young person's activities, and situations where a child is alone with an adult should be avoided unless they can be easily observed by others nearby.
- 7) Safeguarding concerns and / or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and will be responded to promptly. Allegations and concerns will be documented and referred to the relevant agencies. St Mary's will collaborate fully with any investigations and will not attempt to conduct its own investigations.
- 8) The clergy will initiate pastoral care as appropriate for victims / survivors of abuse, those who are the subject of concerns or allegations and other affected persons.
- 9) Adequate insurance cover will be provided for all children's and young person's activities both on, and away from church premises. Written parental consent will be requested for all children taking part in activities when not accompanied by their parent or guardian.
- 10) A parish safeguarding officer will be appointed.
- 11) Details of who to contact if you have a concern will be displayed on church premises along with the Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement which will also appear on our website.
- 12) Serious safeguarding incidents will be reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) to whom we have delegated responsibility for reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission.
- 13) The Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.
Policy updates are to be approved by the PCC.

This statement was approved by the PCC on21st September 2021.....

Signed.....Bernard Allen, Churchwarden