

Bridgerule P.C.C Policy Statement for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults

As members of the PCC we commit our church community to the support, nurture, protection and safeguarding of all, especially the young and vulnerable. We recognise that our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the whole church community. We are fully committed to acting within current legislation, guidance, national frameworks and the Diocesan Safeguarding procedures. We will also act in an open, transparent and accountable way in working in partnership with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Children and Adult Social Care Services, the Police, Probation Services and other agencies to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. We welcome staff and volunteers who are recruited in accordance with House of Bishops' Interim Guidelines on Safer Recruitment 2013. This means we will ensure that those who are employed or who volunteer to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults are suitable for the role, that they know what the role entails and that they are supported in carrying it out.

In addition to this:

1. We accept the prime duty of care placed upon the Priest in Charge and Parochial Church Council (PCC) to ensure the well-being of children and young people in the church community.
2. We adopt and implement a child protection policy and procedures, accepting as a minimum the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy but informed by additional Diocesan procedures and recommended good practice whilst being responsive to the local situation.
3. A Parish Safeguarding Representative is appointed to work with the Priest and the PCC to implement policy and procedures. The Representative ensures 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.
4. The ChildLine telephone number is displayed.
5. We 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 with a copy of the parish Safeguarding Policy, and the Diocesan procedures and good practice guidelines.
6. We pay particular attention to those with special needs and those from ethnic minorities to ensure their full integration and protection within the church community.
7. We endeavour to create a culture of informed vigilance which takes children seriously.
8. We ensure that appropriate pastoral care is available for those adults who have disclosed that they have been abused as children.
9. We provide, as appropriate, support for all parents and families in the congregation, being aware particularly of parents whose children have suffered abuse.
10. We ensure that those who may pose a threat to children and young people are effectively managed and monitored.
11. We ensure that appropriate health and safety policies and procedures are in place.
12. We provide appropriate insurance cover for all activities undertaken in the name of the parish.
13. The implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, with associated procedures and good practice, is reviewed at least annually.
14. Photographs in which a child may be identified are only taken after permission has been granted by the parent or carer.

Useful Contacts:

Priest in Charge: **Rev Elizabeth Burke** 01409 255 490 elizabethmaburke@icloud.com

Parish Safeguarding Representative: **Mrs Jackie Crocker** 01288 381 534

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: **Mr. Charles Pitman** 01392 345909

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: **Mr. Stephen Edgeley** 01392 345910

Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding adviser and DBS coordinator: **Mr. Phillip Parker** 01392 294969

ChildLine 0800 1111

NSPCC helpline: 08088 005 000

Devon County Council Safeguarding line: 0345 155 1071

The following policy statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on 14th March 2018 and will be reviewed in March 2019.