

Barnsley St Edward the Confessor Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

This policy and attached procedures are for the use of all clergy, congregation, volunteers, paid staff and visitors.

Aims:

To create an environment where the safety and well-being of children and young people connected to St Edward's Church are a priority

To promote a culture of equality, respect, and openness within St Edward's Church

To respond quickly and appropriately to concerns about and allegations of abuse against children

Policy:

Our policy complies with the Child Protection/Safeguarding and related policies and procedures issued by the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership, Working Together 2023 and any relevant legislation.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy we are committed to:

- Promoting a safe environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and young people
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims and survivors of abuse , and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those who may pose a risk to others

Procedures:

In compliance with the Parish Safeguarding Handbook 2018:

A parish safeguarding officer will be appointed yearly by the PCC and should attend child protection/safeguarding training on a regular basis and report back on safeguarding matters to the PCC and Annual Meeting

Safeguarding concerns or allegations will be reported to the diocesan safeguarding advisor and/or children's social care/police as appropriate (section 7.2); please see below for contact details

Safe recruitment will be carried out for paid staff and volunteers who work with children at St Edward's Church. This includes DBS checks where appropriate and the referral to the relevant authorities of people posing a risk to children.

The PCC will ensure that appropriate supervision and training will be given to any paid staff or volunteers who work with children. Staff and volunteers are expected to follow the code of safer working practice (section 11)

A risk assessment and checklist will be drawn up for outings involving children and young people where necessary

Procedures for offering supervision and pastoral support for people who pose a risk to children will be followed (section 10)

Health and safety guidelines, as detailed in the Health and Safety Policy, will be followed for services and events where children and young people are involved

All organisations using the premises at St Edward's Church must have appropriate child protection/safeguarding policies and procedures or agree to follow this policy

Members of the PCC will undertake mandatory safeguarding training ie Basic Awareness and Domestic Violence training delivered by the Diocese.

Concerns about abuse should be shared as soon as possible with the parish safeguarding officer Margaret Gostelow (Margaret.gostelow@gmail.com or tel: 01226 790460) and/or the diocesan safeguarding advisors Sofia McGreavy, Jenny Leccardi, Nikki Rose, or Narinder Lyon. They can be contacted by email: safeguarding@leeds.anglican.org or at their office on 0113 353 0257.

Allegations of abuse should be shared **immediately** with the parish safeguarding officer and/or the diocesan safeguarding advisor, who will give advice and refer to children's social care. If they are not available, Barnsley children's social care should be contacted directly on 01226 772423 in office hours, or on 01226 787789 after 5pm, at weekends and on bank holidays.

If a child is at immediate risk Barnsley children's social care should be contacted (as above). The police can also be contacted on 999 or 0114 220 2020.

This policy and procedures to be shared with all members of St Edward's Church and reviewed annually by the PCC

April 2024