

DIOCESE OF BRISTOL

The Fromeside Benefice of Churches:
All Saints Winterbourne Down
St James Iron Acton
St Michael's Winterbourne
St Peter's Frampton Cotterell
St Saviours Coalpit Heath

**Safeguarding Children, Young People &
Vulnerable Adults: Policies & Procedures**

Fromeside Benefice Safeguarding Team

MAY 2024-25

*“Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from their creation in God’s own image and likeness. Christians have a duty to value, understand and respect the rights of children and adults as people of faith in the life of the church.”
Diocese of Bristol Safeguarding Policy 2023*

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1. Policy Context

In developing this policy the **Fromside Benefice of Churches** commits to following the safeguarding policies of the Church of England, safeguarding policy and guidance as issued by the Diocese of Bristol and commits to working within legislation and statutory guidance as related to the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Adults.

The main relevant policies and guidance documents are:

Church of England:

Protecting all God's Children, 2010
Promoting a Safe Church, 2006
Promoting a Safer Church – Policy Statement, 2017
Safer Recruitment and People Management: Practice Guidance, 2021
Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework, 2021
Responding Well to Domestic Abuse, 2017
Responding Well to Victims and Survivors of Abuse, 2021
Responding to, assessing and managing safeguarding concerns or allegations against church officers, 2017
Roles and Responsibilities of Church Office Holders and Bodies, 2017
Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults, 2021
Safer Environment and Activities, 2019
The Code of Safer Working Practice, 2019
Safeguarding Records Joint Practice Guidance, 2015
Safeguarding Records Retention Tool Kit, 2015
General Statement on Safeguarding Children in Towers, 2015

Further information can be found via the Church of England Safeguarding e-manual and Policies and Practice Guidance pages:

[Safeguarding e-manual | The Church of England](#)
[Policy and Practice Guidance | The Church of England](#)

Diocese of Bristol:

Safeguarding Policy, 2023
Allegations Management Procedure, 2023
Ministering to those who may present a risk, 2023

These documents can all be found on the Diocese of Bristol website:

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/aboutus/safeguarding/safeguardingresources/> and descriptions are given where these policies are referenced in this policy document.

Statutory Guidance:

Working Together 2018: This guidance from the Department for Education describes safeguarding processes and the safeguards that every organisation must

have in place, including faith organisations, when safeguarding children. Read or download a PDF version of the guidance at [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) or view it online at www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk

Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2016: This is guidance from the Department of Health which describes safeguarding processes for adults and the responsibilities of different organisations:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance#safeguarding-1>

2. Policy Statement

It is the responsibility of all members of the **Fromside Benefice of Churches** to give paramount importance to the nurture and care of children, young people and vulnerable adults, in a safe and secure environment. It is about preventing harm to children and adults wherever possible.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child, young person or vulnerable adult is paramount.
- Everyone has different levels of vulnerability and each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives
- All children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable (regardless of age, disability, gender, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse which can occur in all families and communities.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, vulnerable adults and their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.

We will develop a culture in our church that:

- Enables a safe and caring community to provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.
- Enables and encourages concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently and protects children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable from actual or potential harm.
- Ensures all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse.
- Values, listens to and respects children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable, encouraging them to be active contributors to the church community.
- Encourages adults who may be vulnerable to lead as independent a life as possible.

When concerns are raised we will:

- Respond without delay to every concern raised that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, or may be at risk of harm, through abuse or neglect.

- Work with police, local authority and other partners in any investigation, including where allegations are made against a member of the Church community.
- Challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

If abuse has occurred we will ensure:

- Informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse, including support to make a complaint if so desired.
- Supervision is provided for any member of the Church Community known to pose a risk of harm to others.
- Appropriate pastoral care is provided to any member of our church against whom an allegation is made.

In all recruitment we will:

- Carefully select those with any responsibility within the Church (including voluntary workers) in line with the Church of England Safer Recruitment and people management Practice Guidance, 2021¹ (See Fromside Benefice of Churches Safer Recruitment Guidelines) and provide ongoing supervision, support and training.

In our publicity we will:

- Share information about good safeguarding practice with children, young people and vulnerable adults, their parents, carers and all those working and worshipping with them.
- Where the Parish has a website we will ensure there is clear information available regarding our safeguarding arrangements, including a copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy and other relevant information.

3. Who is a child, young person, adult who may be vulnerable?

Children and young people: for the purposes of this policy, means anyone under the age of 18 years. Children and young people may be abused by an adult or child, male or female. It is far more common for a child or young person to be abused by a person known to them than by a stranger. This could be a parent, family member, friend, teacher, minister or anyone else. Children may be abused in person or via electronic media, they may experience harm as a result of seeing or hearing the abuse of others.

Where conflicts of interest arise between the welfare of the child and that of adults, the child's wellbeing must always be of paramount importance and priority.

Adults who may be vulnerable: The Care Act 2014 defines an adult to whom statutory safeguarding duties apply as an adult who:

¹ [Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance | The Church of England](#)

- *Has needs for care and support (whether or not the Local Authority is meeting any of these needs)*
- *Is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect*
- *As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of or the experience of abuse or neglect.*

(Care and Support Statutory Guidance, 2016)

The definition may apply to anyone 18 years old and over who may not be able to protect themselves from abuse, harm or exploitation, which may be by reason of illness, physical, sensory or learning disability or impairment, mental illness, use of drugs or alcohol. Increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible.

An adult may be abused or neglected by family (including spouses, parents and children), friends, carers (paid and unpaid), strangers and professionals and members of the community. Those at risk may live alone or may live with family or in a care setting e.g. residential home.

4. What is abuse and neglect?

Please see the table attached as **Appendix 2** This outlines the forms of abuse noted in legislation related to safeguarding children, young people and adults alongside some examples and potential indicators that abuse or neglect may be occurring.

5. What to do if you are concerned that abuse or neglect may be happening

You may see or hear something of concern or someone may tell you something of concern (a disclosure). If a child, young person or adult tells you that they have experienced abuse, are experiencing abuse or are concerned that they may be at risk:

Do	Don't
Listen. Try to move to a quiet space if possible	Tell them to speak to someone else
Let the person talk at their own pace and say what they want to say. If you need to clarify points ask open questions like: Tell me.. what happened, Explain ... about the incident Describe ...where it was , what happened	Investigate. Ask leading questions e.g. why did they do that, was it 'name', did it hurt you?
Take it seriously	Try not to react as though unbelieving or shocked
Reassure. Confirm they are doing the right thing by telling you.	Tell them not to tell stories

Do	Don't
Tell them you need to share the concern with the right people e.g. Parish Safeguarding Officer, police, social care	Promise to keep a secret or tell people who don't need to know.
Record what was said and the facts as accurately as possible as soon as possible	Try to just remember it
	Contact the person the allegation is about

Whether a child, young person or adult has shared a concern with you or you have seen or heard something of concern...

If the situation is urgent i.e. there is an imminent risk of harm: contact the police on 101 or 999 as appropriate or contact the Local Authority Children or Adults safeguarding Teams:

South Gloucestershire Council

- Concerns for children (under 18 years), Children's Partnership:
 - 01454 866000 – Monday to Thursday 9am – 5pm
 - 01454 866000 – Friday 9am – 4.30pm
- Concerns for an adult (over 18), Safeguarding Adults Board:
 - 01454 868007 – Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm
 - 01454 615165 – Out of hours and at weekends

Once you have sought advice from police or the Local Authority and the situation is made safe, inform the Parish Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible of the concern and actions taken; provide a written record of this. If the concern is about the Parish Safeguarding Officer contact the Incumbent or Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

If the situation is of concern but is not urgent: Contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer to report the concern and provide a written record (if the concern is about the Parish Safeguarding Officer contact the Incumbent or Diocesan Safeguarding Officer). They will decide with you whether to discuss with the child, their parents or carers or the adult and any carers and whether a referral to the Local Authority Children or Adults Safeguarding Team is needed or any other action.

Note: Anyone can report a concern directly to police or the Local Authority at anytime.

The **Fromside Benefice of Churches** hopes that all will follow this policy but where there is any concern that an issue has not been reported and should be or any reluctance to inform the church of an incident the **Fromside Benefice of**

Churches wishes to make clear that the most important point is that those concerns are reported to the appropriate authority so that they can be acted upon where needed.

If there is an allegation that a person in a position of trust (minister, PCC member, staff member or volunteer) has abused or neglected a child or adult or that such a person may present a risk to a child or adult: The Diocese of Bristol 'Allegations Management Procedure²' will be followed (copies of this procedure can be found on the Diocesan website and copies are held by the Parish Safeguarding Officers, Clergy and in the Parish Office). In brief this procedure requires that:

- The concern should be reported as above; report should reach police and Local Authority within 1 working day.
- The concern should not be made known to the person against whom the allegation is raised without agreement with police and or the Local Authority.
- Next steps will be decided in conjunction with police, Local Authority representatives (including Local Authority Designated Officer where there is a concern for the welfare of a child), the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer and parish representatives (usually PSO, Incumbent and Churchwardens).

If a person is identified who has a caution or conviction for abuse of children and or adults who may pose a risk to others: (usually those with convictions for sexual or violent offences) the Diocese of Bristol guidance 'Ministering to those who may present a risk³' (Copies of this guidance can be found on the Diocesan website and copies are held by the Parish Safeguarding Officers, Clergy and in the Parish Office) will be followed. In brief this guidance advises that that Parish Safeguarding Officer and Diocesan Safeguarding Officer are made aware and that the individual is informed that:

- To support their being part of the congregation as safely as possible, contact will be made with police, probation and other agencies connected with their case.
- The Diocesan Safeguarding Officer and Church leaders will need to know of their circumstances.
- That a risk assessment will need to be completed
- And that a written agreement will be needed between the individual and the Church which agrees when the individual will or will not be involved in church services and activities, boundaries of behaviour and support offered.

2

<http://www.bristol.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/63f867984a2096dde307eac2e2187b1959740568.pdf>

3

<http://www.bristol.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/59f69dcc0f98e48336828e56a14ded8890ed6c4d.docx>

6. Confidentiality and consent

Confidentiality: The **Fromeside Benefice of Churches** accepts the principle that only those with a need to know should be made aware of safeguarding concerns or other confidential information. All staff, ministers and volunteers are expected to share confidential information appropriately and to ensure that written records and verbal information is shared responsibly and stored securely.

Consent: The **Fromeside Benefice of Churches** accepts that all people have a right to make their own views and wishes known and that these wishes should be followed wherever possible.

Children: Where there is a concern that a child is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect they may ask those that know not to tell anyone. The **Fromeside Benefice of Churches** accepts that we cannot do this; these concerns must be reported to the appropriate authorities to enable the child or young person to receive appropriate help and support. The **Fromeside Benefice of Churches** asks all staff, ministers and volunteers to explain this to children in their care when appropriate. Where there is concern that a child is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect. The **Fromeside Benefice of Churches** expects that parents and carers will be communicated with and will have their consent sought for information to be shared with the Local Authority or other agencies. This should happen except where there is concern that to do so would place a child at increased risk or where a parent or carer may be involved in the sexual abuse of the child. In those circumstances advice of the Local Authority or police should be sought before informing the parents or carers of the concern. Where the allegation is against an individual who may have access to other children or vulnerable adults the referral should be made without seeking consent from parents or carers - how they are made aware of the concerns will be decided alongside statutory agencies.

Adults: Adults have the right to make their own decisions about their lives. Consent should be sought from an adult before information is shared about them. However, where an adult withholds consent for a safeguarding concern to be shared with statutory authorities (police and local authority), this should be accepted except where there may be others at risk (e.g. is the abuse or neglect is happening in a care home or hospital or the abuser has access to other vulnerable adults or children) or where there is reason to doubt that the individual has capacity to make that decision or where there is imminent risk of serious harm. Advice should be sought from statutory services (Adult social care or police) or the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer where there is any doubt as to whether a concern should be referred.

7. Record Keeping

Records of all safeguarding concerns will be kept by the Parish Safeguarding Officers. They will keep a record of the initial concern and all actions taken. The records will be securely held in a secure location, ideally in the vestry offices using a secure and fireproof storage box of **All Saints Winterbourne Down, St James Iron Acton, St Michael's Winterbourne, St Peter's Frampton Cotterell, St Saviours**

Coalpit Heath; at the Fromside Benefice of Churches Administration Office, Winterbourne, or other place agreed between the Rector and the Parish Safeguarding Officers. All those involved with any safeguarding concern must ensure that they provide to the Safeguarding Officer any records related to that case for secure storage.

Records will be retained as per Church of England guidance 'Safeguarding Records: Joint Practice Guidance for the Church of England and the Methodist Church' 2015⁴.

The **Fromside Benefice of Churches** does not have access to secure email systems. Therefore great care should be taken where email is used to ensure that confidential information is not open to being accessed by unauthorised individuals. Individual's confidential information should not be communicated via email (e.g. any information should not make the individual identifiable by name, address etc.).

Records must be maintained of staff and volunteer training and DBS checks. These will be maintained by the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

8. Safer Recruitment and ongoing support and supervision

All recruitment of staff and volunteers will be undertaken in line with Church of England policy 'Safer Recruitment and People Management, 2021'⁵.

Recruitment of staff and volunteers will only be undertaken by those delegated such responsibility from PCC.

Recruitment of staff and volunteers will only be undertaken according to agreed process.

All recruited staff and volunteers will be made known to PCC.

No one who has not been safely recruited will be permitted to work unsupervised with children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable.

In brief: All staff and volunteers will:

- Have all recruitment checks completed and approved prior to starting in role.
- All eligible staff and volunteers will have a repeat DBS disclosure every 3 years. Any lapsed DBS check will require the post holder to stand down until the check has been completed.
- Attend safeguarding training as required by the Church of England
- Attend any other training as decided by the PCC
- Have a named supervisor

⁴ <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/safeguarding%20joint%20practice%20guidance%20-%20safeguarding%20records.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual/safer-recruitment-and-people-management-guidance>

9. Roles and Responsibilities

Name	Responsibilities
Fromeside Benefice Church Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree, implement, monitor and review annually this safeguarding policy and all associated policies, then share with PCCs of All Saints Winterbourne Down, St James Iron Acton, St Michael's Winterbourne, St Peter's Frampton Cotterell, St Saviours Coalpit Heath • PCCs will ensure all staff and volunteers are recruited safely • PCCs will agree and implement supporting good practice guidance and processes • PCCs to ensure adequate insurance for all activities • PCCs will recruit and provide adequate support to Parish Safeguarding Officers • PCCs to ensure all staff and volunteers are adequately trained and supervised
Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to all safeguarding allegations and concerns according to policy and guidance • Monitor and report to PCC regarding adherence to policy and practice • Arrange safeguarding training and maintain records • Process DBS disclosures for the church and maintain records • PSO cannot be the incumbent/Priest-in-charge
Incumbent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as a point of contact should there be any safeguarding allegation or concern regarding a PSO
Church Wardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in the allegations management procedure when required • Take part in an 'agreement' as per 'ministering to those that may present a risk'
Activity Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the Safeguarding policy and associated good practice guidance • Ensure that activities are run according to good practice guidance • Report any safeguarding concerns as per policy • Ensure all volunteers are safely recruited • Ensure all volunteers have in date training and DBS check as required • Ensure all new volunteers receive agreed induction • Supervise agreed volunteers

Name	Responsibilities
Staff and Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the safeguarding policy and associated good practice guidance • Report any safeguarding concern as per policy
Church members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of the safeguarding and associated policies • Report any concerns as per policy

10. Additional Related Policies

Photographs and videos

It is the policy of the **Fromside Benefice of Churches** that no one should take photographs of children or young people without the written consent of that child's parent or carer and the consent of that child where they are old enough to give consent.

Where photographs are to be taken consent will be gained from parents and carers in advance, using the agreed form. This will stipulate: who will take photos, for what purpose they may be used, how they will be stored and after what period they will be destroyed.

All photos and videos taken for the **Fromside Benefice of Churches** should be stored securely on devices belonging to PCC. No photo or video should be left stored on personal photography or videography equipment.

No photo will be taken, shared or used for any purpose which shows a child in any state of undress.

Children will not be named in publicity related to photographs or video.

Where an event may be photographed and is open to the public; signs will be displayed noting that photographs and or video may be taken and inviting anyone not wishing to be in any photos or video used to make this known to a named person. The photographer/ videographer will be named on these signs and will wear ID.

Only those delegated with that responsibility by PCC may ask for parental consent and arrange the taking of any photo or video.

Communications and Social Media

It is the policy of the **Fromside Benefice of Churches** that no one employed on a paid or voluntary basis, serving as a PCC member or as a licenced minister will contact children or young people directly via social media, email, phone or text without the knowledge and consent of that child or young person's parent or carer.

Where such contact needs to be made (for example a text to advise of a change of time for an activity) the child's parent or carer will be asked for consent in advance and the parent or carer will be copied into that communication.

Very rarely contact may be made with a child or young person without the knowledge of the child's parents or carers (for example where there are serious safeguarding concerns for a child and it would increase the risk to the child to contact the parent). In this case the person making contact with the child must agree in advance with the Parish Safeguarding Officer that this is appropriate, a second adult should be copied into all communications e.g. Parish Safeguarding Officer or Incumbent and must keep a record of all communications and provide these to the Parish Safeguarding Officer for the case record.

Where a group wishes to have a social media account to publicise or communicate regarding their group or activity the following will apply:

- The account shall not be a personal account belonging to any group member or leader; it will be a separate group account.
- More than one adult will be administrator for the account so that all content and messages can be seen by more than one adult.
- All users will be made aware that bullying, harassment or other anti social behaviour will not be tolerated. Information will be available to all users about how to raise a concern about the conduct of others and who with.
- Steps must be taken to prevent people outside the group having access to the names or personal details of anyone who is part of the group e.g. if a group Facebook page is used, the account settings should prevent group members being identified and any message sent to anyone other than the administrator.
- All those in a leadership role will ensure that their language is professional and appropriate e.g. not adding 'xx' to messages, not using nicknames that are not what the leader is called by everyone else, avoiding addressing others by endearments which would be ambiguous, such as 'love'.
- Further advice and information regarding online safety is available from the Diocese Safeguarding Team.

Hire of Church Premises for none Church events and activities (whether a fee is chargeable or not)

Organisations and individual users meeting at the **Fromside Benefice of Churches** will be expected to adhere to this safeguarding policy or where they work regularly with children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable, to have their own safeguarding policy.

The **Fromside Benefice of Churches** is responsible for overseeing users and ensuring that that agreed hire process and forms are in use. This will include obtaining a copy of the hirers safeguarding policy where relevant and providing a copy of this policy.

11. Policy implementation and Review

This policy is agreed by the **Fromside Benefice of Churches**, Benefice Council annually.

All staff, volunteers and ministers are required to abide by this policy and associated good practice guidance.

This policy will be made available on the Church website; a paper copy will be available in each church building and/or via the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

This policy is to be reviewed annually.

Next Review Due: MAY 2025

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement Safeguarding Children, Young People & Adults (v2.1 August 2017 Diocese of Bristol)

Safeguarding Children and Young People and Adults

The **Fromside Benefice of Churches**: (hereinafter referred to as ‘the church’ in the Policy Statement)

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture;
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church;
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation;
- Caring pastorally for victims/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; and
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Benefice Safeguarding Lead Officer to work with the Incumbent Fr Malcolm Strange (Rector) and the Benefice Council to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse in line with the Church of England Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance, 2021 and provide ongoing supervision, support and training.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.

- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.
- Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

Policy and procedures

- A copy of this policy statement will be displayed on the Church website and a copy held within each Parish Church and also available from their Parish Safeguarding Officer.
- Each worker with children and young people whether paid or voluntary will be given access to a full copy of the parish policy and procedure and associated Good Practice Guidance and will be expected to follow them.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of the church, the parents or carers of any child or young person from the church or any other person associated with the church or community It is also available on the Parish website.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually by the Benefice Council.

This policy must be read alongside the Good Practice Guidance relevant to the group a worker is involved with and with the Code of Conduct for church members.

Code of Conduct for Church Members

This code of behaviour should not only be seen as an important safeguarding measure but should also be about modelling positive patterns of Christian behaviour.

The following guidelines should be followed at all times, irrespective of circumstance:

- Follow the Church Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and associated Good Practice Guidelines at all times.
- Treat all children, young people and adults with respect and dignity. Acts of aggression, bullying or harassment are not acceptable.
- **Physical Contact:** Remember that not all children and adults will receive or express friendship in the same way. Encourage handshaking rather than hugging as a greeting with children, any physical contact with children should be child led. Be careful about what physical contact you have with adults and check whether they are happy with the contact.

- All control and discipline of children should only be given by parents and carers and without the use of physical punishment or any form of aggression. Unless the child's parents or carers have requested assistance with this. Speak to the Churchwarden if you are concerned about a child's behaviour. The Churchwarden, and/ or member of the Ministry Team or Parish Safeguarding Officer will speak with a parent to agree how a child can be supported with their behaviour if needed.
- A child's own parent or carer should undertake any personal care that a child needs.
- Do not respond to or encourage excessive attention seeking from children, but do inform your Parish Safeguarding Officer if you are concerned about a child's behaviour towards you.
- Children and young people are expected to be accompanied to church by their parents and carers. The exception being designated youth activities.
- Where children and young people attend church or church events without a parent or carer they will need to be made known to the relevant children and young people's workers who will follow the Good Practice guidance for working with children and young people and also follow the Policy for Unaccompanied Children.
- Adults who have not been authorised to work with children and young people should not approach lone children except in the case of emergency, instead going to find a children's or young people's worker.
- We do not engage in any of the following:
 - Invading the privacy of children, young people or adults when they are using the toilet.
 - Rough games involving physical contact between an adult and a child.
 - Discriminatory activities or games focused on sexual behaviour, body image or sexuality.
 - Making any comment which could be sexually suggestive about or to another person.
 - Scapegoating, belittling, ridiculing or rejecting a child or adult.
 - Giving personal gifts directly to children or young people.
 - Inappropriate use of social media, text or mobile devices. Please do not contact children and young people using these methods unless their parents/ carers are aware of this and the reason for it. This includes becoming 'friends' with children on Facebook.

- Taking photographs of children or young people at church events unless you have been authorised to do so and have parental/ carer consent or the picture is of your own child only.
- Drink alcohol (other than communion wine) or otherwise be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when responsible for children or young people on church premises.
- Arrange to see a child outside of church unless this is with their parents/ carers express permission and, if you are a church volunteer, officer, staff member or minister, where this is in line with the Good Practice guidance.
- Enter the space in which a children's or youth group is happening. Only authorised staff and volunteers should be involved.

APPENDIX 2: LONE CHILDREN - Guidance on Unaccompanied and Uncollected Children at Church Services and Activities and on Church Premises (v4 Oct 2017 Diocese of Bristol)

There may be occasions when a child attends church on their own either for a specific children's activity of service or comes into the church at another time. Further there may also be occasions when a child is not collected by a parent or carer. This guidance outlines what will be done in these situations.

General Principles

All children/ young people, up to the age of 18, attending **church groups** including those on a Sunday should be registered using an annual information form completed by parents. If over 16 this form can be completed by the child themselves. The form will have medical information, contact numbers, and travel arrangements to and from church. They should be filed in a secure place in the Church where ministers, Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) relevant activity leaders or Church Wardens can access them. Relevant contact information and medical information should be made available to all activity leaders.

Generally children under the age of 11 years (Primary school age) should always be taken to and collected from an activity for which they have been registered by their parents/carers.

If a child is over 11 years of age, it is the responsibility of their parent/carer to make arrangements with their child for arriving at and leaving an activity. Children over the age of 11 may have suitable road sense and safety skills to manage their own way to church. However, the adult leaders of an activity should always be aware of any children making their own way home and have written consent, from their parent/carer, for this to happen (this is included on the Registration Form). Any concerns about these arrangements should be discussed with the child's parents/carers.

Children arriving at a church activity or on church premises unaccompanied

On occasion, a child may attend church or church activities unaccompanied without their parents/carers knowledge and/or consent. If this happens especially if it is a regular occurrence it could be a sign that something is amiss at home. Children in this situation should always be listened to in case this is an indication of a more serious concern.

Known Child

Where the child does not usually attend alone or parent has not consented to them attending alone then the Activity Leader / Minister/ Parish Safeguarding Officer should speak with the child and ask why they are at church alone. If the child says

anything that suggests that they are at risk or would be at risk of harm if they returned home follow the usual Safeguarding procedures.

If the child is not deemed to be in any danger at home, parent/carer is to be contacted to come and collect the child.

All adult leaders should be alert before and after services when children don't always stay in the presence of their parents in order to ensure that they remain safe. However, Parents should be reminded that they are responsible for their children in church when an activity session has ended.

Unknown Child

If an unaccompanied child who is not known to the Church attends a service/ activity the following steps should be taken:

- Make them welcome and ensure that they are looked after by a 'safer recruited' adult leader.
- If there are any safeguarding concerns follow the safeguarding policy and procedure.
- Try to find out who the parent/carer is and their contact details
- Contact the parent carer and:
 - Explain that the child is wanting to take part in the activity
 - Get permission for the child to remain for this activity
 - Explain there is a consent form (Email this to them or give a copy to the child to take home after)
 - Get all of the next of kin contact information/details of any medical needs and allergies
 - Ensure that they know what time the activity finishes; try to encourage the parent/carer to come and collect their child at this time. If the child is to return home unaccompanied (with parental permission: it is not advisable that a child under 11 is permitted to leave the church on their own), make sure they take with them details of the activity they have attended along with contact details, inviting the parent/carer to get in touch with the activity leader.

In the event you cannot contact the parent/carer

- Try to discover from the child if their parents/carers know where they are and what time they are expected to return home. If this is before the session is due to end, encourage them to return home at this time unless their parents/carers can be contacted.
- Try to establish the child's name, age, address and home (parents) telephone number and complete a registration form with as much detail as the child can provide.

- Make sure they take with them details of the activity they have attended along with contact details, inviting the parent/carer to get in touch with the activity leader.
- If there are any safeguarding concerns follow the safeguarding policy and procedure

Uncollected children

It is rare in church life for children to be left uncollected at the end of an activity session except in exceptional circumstances. Occasionally this does happen, when this is the case, the following steps should be taken:

- Telephone the parents/carers and ask them to collect their child as soon as possible.
- If contact cannot be made, two leaders must wait with the child until this is possible.
- A child should not be escorted home, except in exceptional circumstances.
- If no contact can be made and the child appears to have been abandoned, the out of hour's duty social worker should be contacted at your local authority. [Tel: [South Gloucestershire Council Emergency Duty Team 01454 615165](tel:01454615165) or [866000](tel:0800866000)]
- Another adult should not be allowed to take responsibility for a child without receiving parental consent, written whenever possible. Church officers should not offer to take responsibility for uncollected children.

Any safeguarding concerns should be reported immediately to the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

If there is a risk that the child may run away before parent/carer arrives then, as appropriate, do not share with child that parent/carer has been called. Make a note of what they are wearing in case they need to be searched for. Additionally consider moving to a place in the building which is less open to quickly run away from, and think of something to occupy them in the meantime. Ensure that one adult is not left alone with the child.

If parent/carer of a young child or young person with additional needs is unable to be contacted by the end of the service, then provision must be made to supervise the child while continuing to try to contact parent/carer or another relative. If all avenues to contact a family member are unsuccessful then contact the Local Authority out of hours Emergency Duty service to advise them a lone child is in church and that parents/carers are not contactable. Continue to try to contact the parent/carer.

If the child leaves the building then:

- If possible immediately contact the parent/ carer.

- If contact has not been able to be made with parent/carer - police to be contacted and child reported as missing.
- Generally the Child not to be followed in case it makes behaviour more unpredictable and therefore dangerous with traffic, etc. (if in doubt follow the advice of the police).
- If parent/carer is on the way make contact again with parent/carer and check that they are satisfied with the child not being followed.

In case of an emergency call the police on 999. In the event of anon emergency safeguarding concern contact the Local authority or the police (101)

Always follow your safeguarding policy and procedures.

APPENDIX 3: GOOD PRACTICE Guidance Working with Children and Young People (v1.2 Aug 2017 Diocese of Bristol)

1. Guidance Context

This guidance must be followed by all staff and volunteers working for the **The Fromside Benefice of Churches**.

This guidance is provided for all staff and volunteers to enable them to have an understanding of the behaviours and standards expected in relation to work with children and young people and the provision of activities within **The Fromside Benefice of Churches**.

The guidance contained within this document is based on 'Protecting All God's Children, 2010⁶' and 'Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings, October 2015⁷'.

2. Code of Conduct

Everyone involved in work with Children and young people within The Fromside Benefice of Churches should:

- Ensure that they are aware of the relevant policies: e.g. safeguarding, (including social media and communication, photos and videography), lone child, lone working and that those policies are followed alongside the good practice guidance.
- Commit to training that is required as part of the role and for Safer Recruiting
- Treat all children and young people with dignity and respect befitting their age
- Ensure that their own tone, language and body language is non threatening and age appropriate
- Ensure that discipline is maintained without use of threat or physical punishment or control which is illegal for children's workers
- Ensure that any physical contact with a child is child led. All children should be able to choose what form physical contact takes including 'no contact'. All workers must be aware that children should not be picked up, sat on knees or by hugged. Children may find eye contact and a handshake, high five or hand on the shoulder acceptable. Where a child is hurt or upset they may seek a hug – this should only occur in the sight of another adult.
- Ensure that they do not enter into a romantic or sexual relationship with any young person under 18 and within their care. Care should be taken where a

⁶ <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/documents/protecting-all-gods-children>

⁷ <https://www.rrecruitment.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Guidance-for-Safer-Working-Practice-October-2015.pdf> Safe Recruitment Consortium

young person is over 18 and has recently been within an adult's care due to the potential inequality in the relationship.

- Use supervision as a means of protecting children and young people.
- Work with or insight of another volunteer or staff member. A minimum of two adults should work with any group of children at all times.
- Not offer personal gifts to any child in the group worked with, any prizes or gifts should be from **The Fromside Benefice of Churches** rather than personal (the exception is where the child is a family member or friend's child and the gift is given in the context of that relationship).
- Maintain a professional manner as a helper or leader. Staff and volunteers should not 'befriend' children or meet with them outside the context of their work (except where the child is a family member or friend's child and the contact is in the context of that relationship).
- Avoid taking children to the toilet. Where this is unavoidable, ensure that another staff member or volunteer is informed and in the area.
- Try to ensure that a mixed group has both male and female staff/volunteers. Couples should not be the only adults working with a group.
- Ensure that children and young people know that they can raise any concerns and that they can speak to the Parish Safeguarding Officer or a Children's advocate, where a church has them, if they wish to.
- Visitors who require access to an area in which children or young people are meeting should be accompanied by a known person at all times.

2. Arrangements for children and young people's activities

All activities provided for the children and young people by **The Fromside Benefice of Churches** are the responsibility of the Benefice Church Council. They should require that all activities are therefore safely and appropriately managed.

Every activity must have the following and it is the responsibility of the activity leader, to ensure this happens:

- Have an up to date risk assessment of the activity –reviewed annually or following an incident.
- Have appropriate staff ratios: in line with Ofsted advice, the following are recommended:

Age of Child	Maximum group size with 2 adults	Additional adults required
0-2 years	4	Additional children up to

		max of 2 – one additional adult
2-3 years	8	Additional children up to max of 4 – one additional adult
3-8 years	16	Additional children up to max of 8 – one additional adults
8+	20	Additional children up to max of 12 – one additional adult

NB: where a group of children is of mixed age defer to the ratio requirements for the lower age group.

- Keep a register of staff and children in attendance, and file historic papers according to the practice of the church.
- Have access to a First Aid Kit, accident book and appropriately qualified first aider.
- Ensure that there is a clear fire evacuation procedure.
- Ensure that leaders have access to a phone and hold emergency numbers.
- Keep up to date registration and consent forms.
- Be clear about which children have parental consent to make their own way home, which will be collected and by whom.
- Ensure that where young children are present there are adequate arrangements to ensure they cannot leave the areas without an adult being aware.
- Complete a log in the accident book for any accident.
- Only ever use staff/volunteers that have been safely recruited and who have up to date DBS and Reference checks and training (there will be times when an individual would like to 'see' an activity and to be involved prior to making a decision to commit to being a volunteer and going through the recruitment process. Whilst understandable, any such involvement should be for a maximum of one session only and under close supervision).
- Ensure that the space used for the group is:
 - Adequately heated or cooled
 - Big enough for the activity and number of children/young people
 - Is safe and that any broken furniture or fittings are reported and not causing a health and safety risk
- Ensure that where children are transported by staff or volunteers that:
 - Consent has been obtained from parents/carers
 - The driver has no unspent driving convictions
 - The driver has adequate insurance (see below)

- The required level of DBS check has been obtained for the volunteer driver
- There are at least two adults and two children in each car or where an emergency necessitates a child being transported by one adult that the child sits in the back and an incident form is completed
- That where off site activities or visits occur that:
 - Specific consent is obtained from parents or carers
 - The activity is specifically risk assessed and PCC has given consent for the activity
 - The activity provider, where there is one, has public liability insurance

4. Young Helpers

Young helpers, i.e. those under 18 years of age may require particular support and supervision where they help with activities for adults.

- Young people aged 16 and 17 should be recruited via the Safer Recruitment process and are old enough to apply for a DBS check where the role requires one. They should not however be given supervision responsibility and should always work under the supervision of an adult. They should not be counted in the ratios.
- Young people under 16 may act as helpers with activities. Consideration should be made regarding their level of maturity and their ability to behave responsibly and to follow instruction. Any young helper must have a clear role and be able to understand and follow the code of conduct. Young helpers will require parental consent to be present and assist with activities.
- Care should be taken to ensure that young helpers are not working with their own peers and that they do not hold leadership responsibility where a boyfriend or girlfriend is in the group they are working with.

Volunteer Driver and Insurance (from Volunteer Now)

It is important that volunteers and organisations are aware of their responsibilities with regard to insurance for volunteers who drive as part of their volunteer role. If the organisation owns the vehicles that volunteers use in the course of their volunteering then it is the organisations responsibility to arrange insurance cover and see evidence of the driver's credentials. If the volunteer uses his/her own vehicle then they must arrange insurance cover.

- If volunteers are required to use their own cars in the course of their volunteering the organisations should inform the volunteer that it is essential for them to let their insurance company know that they will be using their car in the course of volunteering. This should be done in writing and the insurance company should send written clearance to

the volunteer. In general this should not involve an increase in premiums.

- Organisations should assist their volunteers by providing them with a letter, which they can forward to the insurance company. The letter should: explain they are a volunteer with the organisation; state if they are using their car to carry passengers in the course of their volunteering and ask for written confirmation that their insurance policy covers any passenger or third party claim, which might arise out of the use of the vehicle for this purpose.

APPENDIX 4: Good Practice Guidance Working with Adults (v1.2 Aug 2017)

1. Guidance Context

This guidance must be followed by all staff and volunteers working for the **The Fromside Benefice of Churches**. There are additional guidelines for clergy contained within 'Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of Clergy, 2015'⁸.

This guidance is provided for all staff and volunteers to enable them to have an understanding of the behaviours and standards expected in relation to work with adults and the provision of activities within **The Fromside Benefice of Churches**.

The guidance contained within this document is based on 'Promoting a Safe Church, 2006'⁹.

2. Code of Conduct

Everyone involved in work with adults within **The Fromside Benefice of Churches** should:

- Ensure that they are aware of the relevant policies: e.g. safeguarding, lone working and that those policies are followed alongside the good practice guidance.
- Treat all adults with dignity and respect, avoiding any language or actions which may be perceived as threatening, harassment, bullying or abusive.
- Exercise care when ministering to persons with whom they have a close personal friendship or family relationship. Ask for another person to provide this pastoral care where appropriate.
- Be aware of the risks associated with pastoral and professional relationships and seek advice or supervision when these concerns arise (this could include development of inappropriate feelings towards the person providing ministry or a level of dependency that places unreasonable or excessive demands on time and availability).
- Recognise that pastoral relationships may develop into romantic attachments and such situations should be handled sensitively. Alternative arrangements should be made for the ongoing pastoral care of the person concerned.
- Ensure that if they exercise a healing ministry that they have been trained in the theology and non-intrusive practice of that work and are part of a supported and supervised team.

⁸ <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2287115/guidelines2ewebversion.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/37405/promotingasafechurch.pdf>

- Recognise their limits and not undertake any ministry that is beyond their competence or role (e.g. therapeutic counselling, deliverance ministry, counselling victims of abuse and domestic violence, or their perpetrators, or giving legal advice). In such instances the person needed such support should be referred to another person or agency with appropriate expertise.
- Avoid behaviour that could give the impression of inappropriate favouritism or the encouragement of inappropriate special relationships.
- Treat those with whom they minister or visit with respect, encouraging self-determination, independence and choice.
- Not provide any assistance with physical needs, including washing and toileting.
- Not undertake any pastoral ministry while under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs/substances. (There maybe occasions when a prescribed substance affects the capacity of the person to engage in a ministry activity if this is the case they should either step down from the ministry or limit their role until they are safely able to resume).
- Be aware of own language and body language, e.g. using innuendoes or compliments of a sexual nature are always inappropriate.
- Consider the appropriateness of initiating or receiving any physical contact, for example a hug may not be welcome by everyone.
- Not seek personal financial gain from their position beyond any salary or recognised allowances.
- Any gifts received should be disclosed to another e.g. a colleague, Churchwarden, Incumbent, relevant activity leader where it should be decided whether they could be accepted.
- Care should be taken not to canvass for church donations from those who may be vulnerable, e.g. the recently bereaved.

Visiting in the home

(See also guidance on 'Pastoral visiting') Where visiting a person at home be careful to:

- Visit in pairs, but recognising this is not always possible for pastoral and practical reasons ensure that appropriate risk assessments are completed before visiting alone.
- Go only when and where invited, and do not follow the person being visited into e.g. kitchen or bedroom
- Avoid entering private areas such as bedrooms if possible.
- Only assist with tasks that are an agreed part of the role

- Do not administer any medication, or take food gifts that may interfere with medication
- If confined to bed, then knock on door before entering (even if open) and sit on a chair and not the bed, leaving the door open
- Do not accept personal gifts of money, If they wish to donate it should be done in an official way through the church
- If you do any shopping this will need an agreed system. E.g. check with family, carer, keep a separate purse, receipts etc¹⁰.
- Record visits in a notebook or similar that is accessible to other visiting the same persons and the pastoral visiting co-ordinator

Driving

Where a volunteer is driving adults for church activities (i.e. collecting them for services etc.) they must be recruited safely and the organiser of this activity should ensure that the driver has adequate insurance¹¹ cover if they are using their own vehicle.

3. Arrangements for activities involving adults

All activities provided for adults by **The Fromside Benefice of Churches** are the responsibility of the Parochial Church Councils (PCCs).

The PCC should require that all activities are safely and appropriately managed. Every activity must have the following and it is the responsibility of the activity leader, supported by the PCC, to ensure this happens:

- An up to date risk assessment- reviewed annually or following any incident
- Pay due consideration to the access needs of all involved

¹⁰ Shopping is a regulated activity as it involves the administration and use of another person's finances it must only be done by those with sufficient DBS clearance and as part of an agreed pastoral care arrangement.

¹¹ **Volunteer Drivers and Insurance (from Volunteer Now)**

It is important that volunteers and organisations are aware of their responsibilities with regard to insurance for volunteers who drive as part of their volunteer role. If the organisation owns the vehicles that volunteers use in the course of their volunteering then it is the organisation's responsibility to arrange insurance cover and see evidence of the driver's credentials. If the volunteer uses his/ her own vehicle then they must arrange insurance cover.

- If volunteers are required to use their own cars in the course of their volunteering the organisations should inform the volunteer that it is essential for them to let their insurance company know that they will be using their car in the course of volunteering. This should be done in writing and the insurance company should send written clearance to the volunteer. In general this should not involve an increase in premiums.
- Organisations should assist their volunteers by providing them with a letter, which they can forward to their insurance company. The letter should:
 - Explain that they are a volunteer with your organisation
 - State if they are using their car to carry passengers in the course of their volunteering.

Ask for written confirmation that their insurance policy covers any passenger or third party claim, which might arise out of the use of the vehicle for this purpose.

- Access to a First Aid kit, an accident book and appropriately qualified first aiders¹² where meeting at Church
- Ensure that there is a clear fire evacuation procedure from the premises
- Ensure that leaders have access to a phone and hold emergency numbers
- Complete a log in the accident book for any accident
- Use staff that have been safely recruited where a group or activity is specifically for vulnerable adults and or where any 'regulated activity'¹³ will occur.
- Ensure that the space used for the group is:
 - Adequately heated or cooled
 - Big enough for the activity and number of people attending
 - Is safe and that any broken furniture or fittings are reported and not causing a health and safety risk
- Ensure that where adults are visited in their own homes that:
 - The adult and their visitor are clear of the purpose of the visits, the duration, frequency and boundaries to the relationship
 - That risk assessments are completed and due consideration made to lone working requirements
 - That the adult has the opportunity to have a friend or relative with them when visits occur if they choose
- Ensure that where visits are made to hospitals or care home settings that:
 - Staff and volunteers follow the sign in / out procedures for the setting and observe agreed timings (duration and e.g. 2pm to 4pm) of visits (and whether appropriate to the person being visited) and agreed purpose
 - That you are aware of what areas are open to visitors
 - Staff and volunteers do not interfere with provided care and that advice is sought from the staff within the setting if it is not clear what the visitor should/ should not do
 - That any concerns about care are reported to the setting manager and reported as a safeguarding concern if appropriate.

¹² First Aid training is often available from British Red Cross (<http://bit.ly/2hRdoss>) or St John Ambulance (<http://www.sja.org.uk/sja/training-courses.aspx>)

¹³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216900/Regulated-Activity-Adults-Dec-2012.pdf

4. Young Helpers

Young helpers, i.e. those under 18 years of age may require particular support and supervision where they help with activities for adults.

- Young people aged 16 and 17 should be recruited via the Safer Recruitment process and are old enough to apply for a DBS check where the role requires one. They should not however be given supervision responsibility and should always work under the supervision of an adult. They should not be counted in the ratios.
- Young people under 16 may act as helpers with activities. Consideration should be made regarding their level of maturity and their ability to behave responsibly and to follow instruction. Any young helper must have a clear role and be able to understand and follow the code of conduct. Young helpers will require parental consent (signed) to be present and assist with activities.

APPENDIX 5: Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

In all our activities –

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

In our publicity –

- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and women-only areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

When concerns are raised –

- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help;
- working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In our care –

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

If you have any concerns or need to talk to a one please contact Parish Safeguarding Officer

APPENDIX 6: Policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders

- The **Fromside Benefice of Churches** is committed to the fair treatment of its staff, potential staff or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/mental disability or offending background. The **Fromside Benefice of Churches** actively promotes equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and welcomes applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records. It selects all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience.
- As an organisation assessing applicants' suitability for positions which are included in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order using criminal record checks processed through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), [Parish Name] undertakes to comply fully with the [code of practice](#)¹⁴ and to treat all applicants for positions fairly.
- The **Fromside Benefice of Churches** undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a criminal record check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed.
- The **Fromside Benefice of Churches** can only ask an individual to provide details of convictions and cautions about which it is legally entitled to know, that is, where a DBS certificate at standard or enhanced level can legally be requested. (i.e. where the position is one that is included in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 as amended, and where appropriate Police Act Regulations as amended)
- The **Fromside Benefice of Churches** can only ask an individual about convictions and cautions that are not protected.
- This written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders is made available to all DBS applicants at the start of the recruitment process. **The Fromside Benefice of Churches** also makes every subject of a criminal record check submitted to DBS aware of the existence of the code of practice and makes a copy available on request.
- An application for a criminal record check is only submitted to DBS after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a criminal record check is identified as necessary, all application forms, job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that an application for a DBS certificate will be submitted in the event of the individual being offered the position.
- The **Fromside Benefice of Churches** ensures that all those who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences; and also that they have received appropriate guidance and training in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders, e.g. the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- At interview, or in a separate discussion, the **Fromside Benefice of Churches** will ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-code-of-practice>

any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment.

- The **Fromside Benefice of Churches** undertakes to discuss any matter revealed on a DBS certificate with the individual seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.

APPENDIX 7: DATA PROTECTION – GDPR (NB this documents is issued by the Benefice Administrator’s Office)



The Parishes of Frampton Cotterell, Iron Acton, Winterbourne and Winterbourne Down,

in **THE DIOCESE OF BRISTOL**

www.fromesidechurches.org.uk

DATA PRIVACY NOTICE

1. Your personal data – what is it?

Personal data relates to a living individual who can be identified from that data. Identification can be by the information alone or in conjunction with any other information in the data controller’s possession or likely to come into such possession. The processing of personal data is governed by the General Data Protection Regulation (the “GDPR”).

2. Who are we?

The Administrator of the Fromeside Benefice is the data controller (contact details below) and will decide how your personal data is processed and for what purposes.

3. How do we process your personal data?

The Fromeside Benefice complies with its obligations under the “GDPR” by keeping personal data up to date; by storing and destroying it securely; by not collecting or retaining excessive amounts of data; by protecting personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure and by ensuring that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect personal data.

We use your personal data for the following purposes: -

- To enable us to provide a voluntary service for the benefit of the public in a particular geographical area as specified in our constitution;
- To administer membership records;
- To fundraise and promote the interests of the Church;
- To manage our employees and volunteers;
- To maintain our own accounts and records (including the processing of gift aid applications);
- To inform you of news, events, activities and services running in the Fromeside Benefice and Mission Area;

4. What is the legal basis for processing your personal data?

- Explicit consent of the data subject so that we can keep you informed about news, events, activities and services and process your gift aid donations.
- Processing is carried out by us a religious not-for-profit body provided: -
 - the processing relates only to members or former members (or those who have regular contact with it in connection with those purposes); and

- there is no disclosure to a third party without consent.

5. Sharing your personal data

Your personal data will be treated as strictly confidential and will only be shared with other members of the church in order to carry out a service to other church members or for purposes connected with the church. We will only share your data with third parties outside of the parish with your consent.

6. How long do we keep your personal data

We keep data in accordance with the guidance set out in the guide “Keep or Bin: Care of Your Parish Records” which is available from the Church of England website [see footnote for link].

Specifically, we retain electoral roll data while it is still current; gift aid declarations and associated paperwork for up to 6 years after the calendar year to which they relate; and parish registers (baptisms, marriages, funerals) permanently.

7. Your rights and your personal data

Unless subject to an exemption under the GDPR, you have the following rights with respect to your personal data: -

- The right to request a copy of your personal data which the Fromeside Benefice holds about you;
- The right to request that the Fromeside Benefice corrects any personal data if it is found to be inaccurate or out of date;
- The right to request your personal data is erased where it is no longer necessary for the Fromeside Benefice to retain such data;
- The right to withdraw your consent to the processing at any time
- The right to request that the data controller provide the data subject with his/her personal data and where possible, to transmit that data directly to another data controller, (known as the right to data portability), (where applicable) [*Only applies where the processing is based on consent or is necessary for the performance of a contract with the data subject and in either case the data controller processes the data by automated means*].
- The right, where there is a dispute in relation to the accuracy or processing of your personal data, to request a restriction is placed on further processing;
- The right to object to the processing of personal data, (where applicable) [*Only applies where processing is based on legitimate interests (or the performance of a task in the public interest/exercise of official authority); direct marketing and processing for the purposes of scientific/historical research and statistics*]
- The right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioners Office.

8. Further processing

If we wish to use your personal data for a new purpose, not covered by this Data Protection Notice, then we will provide you with a new notice explaining this new use prior to commencing the processing and setting out the relevant purposes and processing conditions. Where and whenever necessary, we will seek your prior consent to the new processing.

9. Contact Details

To exercise all relevant rights, queries of complaints please in the first instance contact:

The Administrator, Fromeside Benefice of Churches, 95 High Street, Winterbourne, Bristol BS37 1RD.

You can contact the Information Commissioners Office:

Tel: 0303 123 1113 or Email <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/email/>

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 5AF.

APPENDIX 8: Useful Contact numbers

All Saints Winterbourne Down	Jane Dennis 01454 327409
St James Iron Acton	Jan Conner 01454 228482
St Michael's Winterbourne	Yvonne Andow 07817132859
St Peter's Frampton Cotterell	Susanne Bailey 01454 351392
St Saviours Coalpit Heath Benefice Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Lisa Stephens 07792 908865
Fromside Benefice of Churches Safeguarding email and telephone number	safeguarding@fromsidechurches.org.uk 07594 976301

- Our Diocesan Safeguarding Officer can be contacted on 0117 906 0100.
- If advice is needed on a safeguarding issue and the PSO or DSA are not available, Thirtyone:eight provides a helpline that can be contacted on 0303 003 11 11. Please state that you are calling from a Diocese of Bristol church and contact your PSO as soon as possible to report that you sought advice from Thirtyone:eight and action taken.

South Gloucestershire Council

- Concerns for children (under 18 years), Children's Partnership:
 - 01454 866000 – Monday to Thursday 9am – 5pm
 - 01454 866000 – Friday 9am – 4.30pm
- Concerns for an adult (over 18), Safeguarding Adults Board:
 - 01454 868007 – Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm
 - 01454 615165 – Out of hours and at weekends

Police: 999 (emergency) or 101 (non emergency)

APPENDIX 9: Categories of Abuse and additional information

Categories, Definitions and Indicators of Harm (Last Updated April 2017 v4)

Type Of Harm	Definition	Examples	Indicators
Physical Adults and Children	<p>Non-accidental harm to the body. From careless rough handling to direct physical violence.</p> <p>Unlawful or inappropriate use of restraint or physical interventions.</p>	<p>Hitting, slapping, pinching, shaking, pushing, scalding, burning, dragging, kicking, physical restraint, locking an individual in a room or a car.</p>	<p>History of unexplained falls or minor injuries, bruising which is characteristic of non-accidental injury – hand slap marks, pinch marks, grip marks, bite marks, scalds, flinching, reluctant to undress.</p>
Sexual Adults and Children	<p>Direct or indirect involvement in sexual activity without capacity and/or consent. Individual did not fully understand or was pressured into consenting.</p> <p>Note: A child under 16 years old can never consent to any sexual act</p>	<p>Coercion to be involved in the making or watching of pornographic material. Coercion to touch e.g. of breasts, genitals, anus, mouth, masturbation of either self or others, penetration or attempted penetration of vagina, anus, mouth with or by penis, fingers and or other objects</p>	<p>Pregnancy in a women unable to give consent, difficulty in walking or sitting with no apparent explanation, torn, stained or bloody underclothes or bedding, Bleeding, bruising to the rectal and/or vaginal area, bruising. Behavioural changes, sexually explicit behaviour, explicit language, self harm, obsession with washing, fear of pregnancy may be exaggerated</p>
Emotional Adults and Children	<p>Behaviour which has a harmful effect on an individual's emotional well being or development, causing mental distress undermining their</p>	<p>Shouting, coercion, bullying, blaming, insulting, ignoring, threats of harm or abandonment, intimidation,</p>	<p>Loss of interest, withdrawn, anxious or depressed, frightened, avoiding eye contact, irritable, aggressive or challenging behaviour, unexplained</p>

Type Of Harm	Definition	Examples	Indicators
	<p>self-esteem and affecting individual's quality of life.</p> <p>Wilful infliction of mental suffering by a person in a position of trust and power.</p>	<p>harassment, humiliation, depriving an individual of the right to choice and their privacy, dignity, self-expression, deprivation of contact, undermining self-esteem, isolation and over-dependence. Failure to provide a loving environment for a child.</p>	<p>sleep disturbance, self harm, refusing to eat, deliberate soiling, unusual weight gain or loss</p>
<p>Neglect</p> <p>Adults and Children</p>	<p>Failure of any person who has responsibility for the charge, care or custody of an adult at risk or child to provide the amount and type of care or treatment that a responsible person could be expected to provide.</p>	<p>Fail to meet basic needs including food, environment, access to health care and education, failure to provide for social needs.</p>	<p>Unwashed/ dirty appearance, clothes too small/big, untreated sores or infections, isolation.</p>
<p>Financial</p> <p>Adults</p>	<p>The unauthorised taking (theft), deprivation or misuse of any money, income, assets, funds, personal belongings or property or any resources of an adult at risk without their informed consent or authorisation.</p>	<p>Misuse of power of attorney or appointeeship. Money and possessions stolen, misuse or misappropriating money, valuables or property, possessions or benefits, undue pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, denying the adult at risk the right to</p>	<p>Unexplained or sudden inability to pay bills, Power of Attorney obtained and misused when a person lacks or does not lack mental capacity to understand, unexplained withdrawal of money with no benefits, person lacking goods or services that they can afford, extortionate demands for payments for services</p>

Type Of Harm	Definition	Examples	Indicators
Organisational Adults	<p>Involves the collective failure of an organisation to provide safe, appropriate and acceptable standards of service to adults at risk.</p> <p>Mainly relates to health and social care provision but aspects may be relevant to Church settings</p>	<p>access funds, unauthorised disposal of property or possessions, being asked to part with money on false pretences,</p> <p>Lack of individualised care, inappropriate confinement or restriction, sensory deprivation, inappropriate use of rules, custom and practice</p>	<p>Whistle blowing policy not in place and accessible, insufficient employees training and development. Organisational standards not meeting those laid down by regulatory bodies, service users not treated with dignity and respect, diverse needs not recognized and valued in terms of age, gender, disability, ethnic origin, race or sexual orientation, services not flexible</p>
Discriminatory Adults	<p>Exists when values, beliefs or culture result in a misuse of power that denies opportunity to some groups or individuals.</p>	<p>Verbal abuse, harassment or similar</p> <p>treatment, unequal treatment, deliberate exclusion from services such as education, health, justice and access to services and protection, harmful or derisive attitudes,</p>	<p>Repeated exclusion from rights afforded to citizens such as health, education, employment and criminal justice</p>

Type Of Harm	Definition	Examples	Indicators
Modern Slavery	Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.	<p>inappropriate use of language</p> <p>Adult or Child trafficked into UK or between places in UK for purpose of sexual abuse or labour.</p> <p>Adult or Child forced to work as domestic servant.</p> <p>Adult or child forced to work as sex worker, farm labourer, car cleaner.</p>	<p>Individual may not have their passport or Identity documents. They may not have access to or contact with friends and family.</p> <p>May never be left alone, live in poor conditions, not be able to leave of own free will. May have no access to funds. May not know where they are or who they are with.</p>
Self Neglect	A wide range of behaviour involving neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.	<p>May not react to or appropriately fulfil needs for health care, food, warmth. May live in an environment that is an environmental or fire risk and not take any measure to reduce risk or inadequate measures.</p>	<p>Environment which is poorly maintained, dirty, animal infested, cramped to the degree that it places the individual's wellbeing at risk.</p> <p>May have untreated or inadequately treated physical health issues.</p>
Domestic Violence	Incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse by someone who is or has been an intimate partner or family member regardless of gender or sexuality. Age	<p>Includes: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence; Female Genital Mutilation;</p>	<p>Appears to be afraid of partner / of making own choices, behaves as though she/he deserves to be hurt or mistreated, low self-esteem or appear to be withdrawn, appears unable or unwilling to leave</p>

Type Of Harm	Definition	Examples	Indicators
	range 16+	forced marriage.	perpetrator, makes excuses for or condones the behaviour of the person alleged to have caused harm, blames abuse on themselves
Spiritual Abuse ¹⁵¹⁶ (not defined in Statutory Guidance)	Inappropriate use of religious belief or practice	The misuse of the authority of leadership or penitential discipline, oppressive teaching or intrusive healing or deliverance ministries which may result in various types of harm.	Could be any of the above.

Some Additional Information:

Child Sexual Exploitation: All children and young people can be at risk of sexual exportation. This includes boys and girls of any age. This is a form of sexual abuse. Whilst young people can give consent to sexual acts from the age of 16 (so long as they have the capacity to do so) they continue to be a risk of sexual exploitation beyond their 16th birthday. **Any concern that a child or young person may be at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation must be reported immediately to Children’s Social Care or the police.** Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other

¹⁵ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/175437/Action_Plan_-_Abuse_linked_to_Faith_or_Belief.pdf

¹⁶ <https://thirtyoneeight.org/media/gbsj1haw/spiritualabusesummarydocument.pdf>

resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

Female Genital Mutilation: Female genital mutilation (sometimes referred to as female circumcision) refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal in the UK. It has been estimated that over 20,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the UK each year, and that 66,000 women in the UK are living with the consequences of FGM. However, the true extent is unknown, due to the "hidden" nature of the crime. The girls may be taken to their countries of origin so that FGM can be carried out during the summer holidays, allowing them time to "heal" before they return to school. There are also worries that some girls may have FGM performed in the UK. Any concern that a child or adult who may be vulnerable may be at risk of FGM must be reported immediately to the relevant Local Authority or directly to police.

Terrorism and Extremism: Any person may become drawn into extremism or sympathy with such views and into terrorism. This will often happen through contacts made via the internet but a culture that supports this can develop in any community, group, school or faith organisation. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places duties on certain bodies, not including Faith Organisations (excepting where such an organisation runs a school or other relevant premises) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Everybody should be alert to any indication that a person or group may be developing or has developed an interest or ideology that may include harm to others. **Any concern related to this whether for a child or adult must be reported to the police without delay.**

Position of Trust: The Sexual Offences Act 2003 has been amended to clarify the meaning of a person in a "position of trust". Under the new law, A has a position of trust in relation to B if they actually and knowingly coach, teach, train, supervise, or instruct B on a regular basis in a sport or a religion.

The age of consent for sexual activity in the UK rises from 16 years to 18 years where one person in a position of trust is involved. The implications of this change in law is to make it illegal for religious leaders and sports coaches to engage in sexual activity with those aged 16 and 17 years.