

Parish of Bishops Hatfield, St Etheldreda with St Luke
March 2024

Policy for Safeguarding Children

We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- are youth-friendly and child-friendly and nurture their positive development
- enable children and young people to be active contributors to the church community
- protect children and young people from actual or potential harm
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child or young person is paramount
- all children (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
- abuse of children can occur in all communities and is most likely to occur within families and by people known to the child
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

In our recruitment of paid staff and volunteers, following Diocesan procedures in -

- ensuring careful selection and recruitment of ordained and lay ministers as appropriate, voluntary workers, and paid workers with children and young people, in line with safer recruitment principles and checks
- providing supervision, support and training

When concerns are raised, following Diocesan procedures in -

- responding without delay to every concern raised that a child or young person may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm; or about the behaviour of an adult or child
- working with the diocese and appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into child abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community. Not conducting our own investigation
- challenging any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust

In our care -

ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse

ensuring that appropriate pastoral care and supervision are offered to any member of our church community against whom an allegation is made

In our supervision, following Diocesan procedures in -

ensuring, in partnership with the diocese and other agencies, that care and supervision is provided for any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or young person, or to pose a risk to them.

The PCC acknowledges its responsibility for all work with children and young people done in the name of the Church and requires all those engaged in such work to be properly appointed and supported in accordance with the Church of England Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment (July 2016).

We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures annually.

March 2024

Date of next review: March 2025

Safeguarding Officer – Caroline Roberts