



This Benefice Safeguarding Statement was adopted by St Edwards PCC at the Parochial Church Council meeting held on 1st September 2020

A This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved and a copy shared with the Archdeacon at the time of the Visitation.

1. The PCC accepts the diocesan policy statement and guidelines on working with children and young people and vulnerable adults.
2. The PCC seeks to provide a caring, warm, consistent and respectful atmosphere and environment in which children and young people and vulnerable adults can develop, grow in faith and receive pastoral care safely. Children and young people and vulnerable adults will be treated as individuals and with equal concern.
3. The PCC recognises that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives. We will promote the inclusion and empowerment of adults who may be at risk.
4. This 2020 Revision acknowledges the truth of the paragraph above in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Government Guidance is clear that: 'Certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Individuals who fall within this group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household.'
 - However, both the Government and the Church of England note that each individual must assess the risks for themselves and are responsible for making their own decisions about attending worship in church. The PCC endorses this approach.
 - To help with this assessment, the PCC has now completed a Risk Assessment which is posted on line and in the church porch.
5. The PCC will promote the inclusion and empowerment of adults who may be at risk by providing a weekly benefice service on-line and by delivering hard copy of the same service to those who are not comfortable with the on-line world.
6. The PCC recognises that its work with children and young people and vulnerable adults is mainly within public services of worship, pastoral visits and the Open the Book programme in schools.

B The PCC:

1. Will ensure that everyone involved in the care of children and young people and vulnerable adults, whether through paid employment or volunteer roles, is personally made aware of the diocesan policy and the PCC policy.
2. Will ensure that everyone involved in the care of children, young people and vulnerable adults will be recruited through the Church of England's Safer Recruitment processes.
3. Will ensure that completed personnel records are appropriately stored. All information on workers with children and young people and vulnerable adults will be kept locked away safely and confidentially in line with data protection legal requirements.
4. Will ensure that every appropriate position is recruited to in line with national church and diocesan Safer Recruitment processes.
5. Will ensure that it complies with the rolling programme of (DBS) rechecks that are supported/administered by the diocese.
6. Will ensure that everyone involved in working with children and young people and vulnerable adults understands the nature of the work they have agreed to do and knows the name of the person to whom they are responsible.
7. Will ensure the Rector, nominated by the PCC, will be responsible on the PCC's behalf for implementing and monitoring the PCC's Safeguarding policy.
8. Will ensure that training opportunities are undertaken within national/diocesan requirements.
9. Will ensure that the PCC is regularly informed of the names of those who work with children and young people and vulnerable adults for parish records.
10. Nominates the Rector to be the Nominated Person to whom all concerns and cases of suspected or alleged abuse must be reported immediately. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial or spiritual abuse of adults who may be at risk and to report any such abuse that we either discover or suspect.
11. Will make adequate provision for insurance cover for all activities for children and young people and vulnerable adults in line with the House of Bishop's guidance.
12. Will make a copy of this policy available to all employees and volunteers of this church, and to parents/guardians. A summary will be displayed on the parish noticeboard alongside a ChildLine poster with details of how to access the full policy if needed.
13. Will review this policy annually at the APCM and ensure that a copy of this policy will be presented to the Archdeacon at the Visitation.
14. Will ensure that any individual organisation renting/using its premises for activities involving children and young people or vulnerable adults is aware of its own individual responsibilities to have appropriate safeguarding policies and processes in place.

15. Will ensure that any complaint made regarding a child, young person or vulnerable adult for whom we are responsible, who may have been harmed or is in significant danger, will be reported immediately and that we will fully cooperate with statutory agencies during any investigation into allegations concerning a member of the church community.
16. Will inform the statutory agency of any suspected criminal offenders or concerns that we are made aware of in respect of our contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults, and will inform and work closely with Diocesan staff and all statutory agencies.
17. Will ensure that professional pastoral care is made available to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse, and provide them with details of local and national support agencies.
18. Will work closely with the diocese to ensure that we effectively supervise and support any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
19. Will ensure that we work closely with the diocese to ensure that any required DBSs or other required checks and references, including the five year rolling re-check programme, are complied with.
20. Will work closely with the diocese in ensuring appropriate people are trained and updated on good practice, legal changes etc.