

The Parish of St Andrew's Handsworth

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The Parochial Church Council of St Andrew's Church Handsworth recognises the importance of its ministry/work with children and young people in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

The following statement was agreed by the PCC on Tuesday 4th August 2020. In view of the current situation regarding Covid-19 this statement has not been physically signed by the signatories as listed below. This will be undertaken as soon as safe working practices allow.

St Andrew's Church is committed to the safeguarding of children and young people and ensuring their well-being.

Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect
- We believe every child and young person should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children and young people we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm
- All children and young people have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of St Andrew's Church unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with children and young people

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and young people and good practice recommendations
- Adopt all of the House of Bishops' safeguarding and practice guidance and The Church of England – Birmingham's procedures for their implementation
- Respecting the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with disabilities
- Ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding
- Following the Church of England and Diocesan Policy Guidance and Procedures in relation to safeguarding children
- Supporting the Vicar, Parish Safeguarding Officers and Parish Safeguarding Coordinator in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established
- Supporting parents and families
- Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of children and young people
- Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work
- Supporting all in the place of worship affected by abuse

We recognise:

- Children's Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or young person then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for this place of worship/organisation.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints **_Valerie Powell_** as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent **..VACANT**.....

Churchwardens: **Carl Hart and Ms Elaine Powell**

Date: **4th August 2020**