

St. Giles, Rowley Regis.

Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Policy

The PCC of St. Giles, Rowley Regis, recognises the need to safeguard the children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care and guard against the possibility of any form of abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults by persons who may be acting in the name of our Parish. We aim to create a safe environment for their nurture and development, in order for them to feel valued and confident to ask for support and help. Children, young people and vulnerable adults are precious gifts from God and we have a clear responsibility to do all that we can to ensure their safety and well-being. We will treat them with respect, take their views seriously and always take appropriate action to ensure their welfare is given priority. We will pay particular attention to children, young people and vulnerable adults with additional needs – physical, behavioural, learning – or from minority ethnic groups to ensure their full integration and protection within the Church family. We will create policies and procedures that uphold the importance of our responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults entrusted to our care. A Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator will be appointed to ensure the implementation of this policy.

Our Policy

- We commit to providing a safe physical environment for work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- We will ensure the children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care know who they can talk to if they have any concerns.
- We will always listen to and take seriously any child, young person and vulnerable adult who reports that they have been abused, following our procedures.
- We recognise our responsibility to always respond to and report abuse in whatever context, inside or outside the Church environment.
- We will always report allegations of abuse and concerns about a child, young person and vulnerable adult in accordance with our procedures.
- We will always report all allegations of abuse to the appropriate statutory agency and to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser.
- We will keep all records in relation to safeguarding concerns, allegations and the recruitment of volunteers and paid workers securely.
- We commit to informing the whole Church community about our child protection and vulnerable adult policies and procedures.
- We commit to the safe recruitment of all new and current volunteers and paid workers who have contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- We will assess all new and current volunteer and paid worker roles and, where the role is deemed to be eligible, apply for an appropriate level of DBS check every 5 years.
- We commit to providing every worker and volunteer with clear instructions and information in respect of their role, adequate support and supervision and regular opportunities for review.

- We accept responsibility for initiating and providing initial and on-going training for all our paid workers and volunteers.
- We will suspend a worker or volunteer about whom there are concerns or against whom an allegation has been made as a neutral act whilst an investigation into the allegation/concern is conducted.
- We will ensure appropriate supervision of anyone who is known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult who attends activities organised by the PCC of St. Giles, Rowley Regis.
- We commit to the support of adult and child survivors of abuse.
- We commit to providing appropriate support and guidance to any individual within our Church community who is accused of causing harm to a child, young person or vulnerable adult in our care.
- We require all hirers of our premises to have their own child protection policy and procedures, to provide us with an assurance that these are implemented and to provide us with a copy.
- We will review our child protection policy and vulnerable adults policy annually to ensure that it meets all current legislation and *“God’s Children: Our Diocese”*.

Approved by the PCC: December 2017

Our Current Parish Safeguarding Officer is Mrs. Marian Green (telephone number: 07985 575602).