

CHRIST CHURCH, WEST WIMBLEDON

SAFEGUARDING POLICY: *Displayed on notice boards & website*

The community of Christ Church, West Wimbledon is committed to and will champion the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults both in society as a whole and in our own community. We fully accept, endorse and will implement the principles enshrined in The Children Act 1989 that the welfare of the child is paramount. We will foster and encourage best practice within our community by setting standards for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults and by supporting parents in the care of their children. We will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well being of children, young people and vulnerable adults. We are committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or vulnerable adult or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory body when an investigation into child abuse or other abuse is necessary.

The Safeguarding Policy has been written in accordance with the Diocese of Southwark Safeguarding Documents – ‘A Safe Church’. These documents can be accessed under ‘Safeguarding’ at the Diocese of Southwark website: www.southwark.anglican.org. A full copy of the CCWW Safeguarding Policy is on the website: www.christchurch-westwimbledon.org and the Church

Revised and approved by the PCC – 11 July 2017

Parish of Christ Church, West Wimbledon

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.

We will endeavour to safeguard children and young people by:

In all our activities -

- valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people
- fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with children and young people, in co-operation with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities

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
- In our publicity - sharing information about good safeguarding practice with children, parents, and all those working with them

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
- 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 is 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.

Policy for Safeguarding Adults who may be vulnerable

We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse
- encourage adults who may be vulnerable to lead as independent a life as possible, to choose how to lead their life, and to be active contributors to the church community
- protect adults who may be vulnerable from actual or potential harm

- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

We recognise that:

- everyone has different levels of vulnerability, and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives
- all adults who may be vulnerable (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 adults who may be vulnerable can occur in all communities and is most likely to occur within families and by people known to them
- working in partnership with adults who may be vulnerable, their carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.

We will endeavour to safeguard adults who may be vulnerable by:

In all our activities -

- valuing, listening to and respecting adults who may be vulnerable
- fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with adults who may be vulnerable, and boundaries for acceptable behaviour, in co-operation with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith community

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 adults who may be vulnerable, in line with safer recruitment principles and checks
- providing supervision, support and training
- In our publicity sharing information about good safeguarding practice with adults who may be vulnerable, their carers, and all those working with them

When concerns are raised, following Diocesan procedures in -

- responding without delay to every concern raised that a adult who may be vulnerable may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm,

through abuse, harassment or bullying; or about the behaviour of an adult or child

- working with the diocese and the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community
- 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 vulnerable adult who has suffered abuse, including support to make a complaint if so desired
- ensuring that appropriate pastoral care is 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 vulnerable adult, or to pose a risk to them.

Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

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 openly 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 child 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 perpetrators of domestic abuse. In our publicity raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public areas of relevance to survivors, children and 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 perpetrators of domestic abuse.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures annually.

We have appointed as our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator: Jenny Tomlinson

What you should do if you suspect a child or a vulnerable adult is being abused:

1. Record the facts as known to you -

Including when and where conversations took place as well as what was said and being careful to distinguish facts from allegations and opinions.

2. Speak to the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator, the Priest-in-Charge and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

3. It may be in certain exceptional circumstances that the police need to be contacted immediately.

4. Always consider whether immediate medical attention is required.

N.B. The number children can ring if someone has harmed them or they think someone might be going to harm them is:

Childline on 0800 1111 Family Lives (previously Parentline) 0808 800 2222

...if a child or vulnerable adult tells you something which suggests they have been abused:

1. Listen to them rather than asking direct questions or pressing for details

2. Do not stop them while they are freely recalling significant events

3. Reassure them (who may have been threatened, told to keep what is happening secret, or told that no one will believe them) that they have done the right thing in telling someone, and that they are not to blame.

4. Let them know that there are other people who need to be told so that they can help them

5. Record the facts and tell someone (as listed above in 'if you suspect any abuse')

6. Do not delay or decide to give the benefit of the doubt to parents or others

7. Detailed enquiries must be left to the investigating agencies

...if an allegation is made against you:

Inform the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator or the Priest-in-Charge and in every case the Diocese Safeguarding Advisor MUST be informed as soon as possible.

Contact Numbers:

Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator: Mrs Jenny Tomlinson: 020 8946 2166

Priest-in-Charge The Reverend Michael Burns: 020 8540 5279

Children's Services:

London Borough of Merton 020 8274 4901

Police:

Non-emergency 101

Emergency 999

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser:

Kate Singleton,
Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court,
Borough High Street,

London SE1 1HW
020 7939 9423(office hours)
07982 279713 (out of hours).