

Aims

The following procedures apply to all staff, volunteers and visitors working in our church buildings and church environment. The overall aim is to prevent children, young people or vulnerable adults from being abused and to safeguard and promote the welfare of all in our church community by:

- protecting all children, young persons and vulnerable adults in our care.
- committing to raise awareness of why we need to have a safeguarding policy
- providing the support, advice and training for lay and ordained people, volunteers and visitors so that everyone is clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable, especially in our care and using our premises.
- appointing a Safeguarding representative and supporting them in their role to:
 - support and advise the minister, volunteers and visitors
 - provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
 - promote safeguarding best practice within our parish.
- providing, staff, volunteers and visitors with the framework they need in order to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe in our church buildings.
- producing clear guidelines for all to follow.
- carefully selecting all those with any responsibility within the church, in line with safe recruitment principles, including where applicable the use of the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him or her an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- responding quickly to any complaints or disclosures made which suggest that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation and we will have clear reporting procedure in place.
- seeking to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

Good Practice

We believe good practice means that:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons, in which case a written note of this will be made and kept noting date, time and place of visit.
- iii) The church premises will be assessed for safety for children and vulnerable adults and the risk assessment report will be given annually to the Parochial Church Council in written form. This will include fire safety procedures. The Parochial Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
- iv) Any driver using their own vehicle for the transportation of children or vulnerable