

The Parish of The Vine Sheffield

SAFEGUARDING POLICY 2021

PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

1. Promoting a safer environment and culture.

We are committed to protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults and promoting their physical, spiritual, emotional and mental well being. Church should be a safe and caring place for all. We will raise awareness among our congregation and work towards creating a culture where safeguarding is a shared responsibility for all church members

2. Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church, ensuring they are trained to recognise and respond to signs of abuse.

All adults working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are given a job description for the role. They will be required to:

- Complete an application form
- Complete an informal interview/discussion with the group leader
- Complete a Confidential Self Declaration Form
- To complete the necessary vetting application (DBS)
- Provide two references
- Undertake a three month probationary period.
- Complete C1 Safeguarding training. Leaders of groups will be required to complete C2 Leadership Training
- All documents will be kept confidential and stored securely.

3. Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.

All working with children and vulnerable adults will be trained to know how to respond to disclosures appropriately. We will listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse. We will take steps to protect children and vulnerable adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and relevant statutory agencies as appropriate.

4. Caring pastorally for victims and other affected persons

We recognise that the Church of England has made grave errors in the past in failing to adequately address safeguarding issues. We will offer a compassionate response to people attending our church who are survivors of abuse. Abuse has a long term detrimental affect on a person's well being. We are committed to caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons. We will offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.

5. Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.

We recognise that being the subject of an allegation can be a very stressful experience for the individual and their family. We will care pastorally for Church Officers who are the subject of an allegation and maintain a stance of

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innocent until proven guilty. However we will put in place appropriate measures to ensure that risks to others are removed while allegations are investigated.

6. Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The church is open to all including former offenders and this may include people who pose a risk to others. We will care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties. The Diocesan Safeguarding Officer will be consulted and a Safeguarding Agreement will be put in place to ensure the individual can engage safely with appropriate church activities whilst maintaining protection of children and vulnerable adults.

In addition,

- We have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (Gill Wier) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- We ensure there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- We display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs. (Gill Wier, safeguarding@thevinesheffield.org.uk or Rev Will Briggs will@thevinesheffield.org.uk)
- We have health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- We will review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

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

This policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on.....May 24, 2021.....

Incumbent.....WILL BRIGGS.....

ChurchwardensPAUL SHERIDAN.....ANDY BRYCE.....

Date: May 26, 2021

Our procedures for working with children:

We want the children we work with to feel they belong to 'The Vine', to believe in God's love for them and to become closer followers of Jesus. We aim to provide a safe environment for children to grow physically, emotionally and spiritually. We aim to promote equal opportunity for all children.

Childrens' groups (whether they meet in person or via video conferencing) will have at least two adults over the age of 18 present at all times and the correct ratios of adults to children will be adhered to.

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An up to date register is kept of children attending the groups. All parents will be asked to complete a registration form which includes details of any allergies or health conditions. For visiting children a more simple form will be used. Brief details of allergies or health conditions will be kept at the back of the register so that childrens' helpers are aware of this at all sessions to ensure the health and safety of the child.

Registers will be kept in a discreet place in the childrens' work rooms and attendance noted at each session. At the end of the term the register will be taken to the church office and stored securely.

Consent forms, completed by parents/ guardians will be obtained for all children attending regular groups and also when groups undertake activities away from the church premises. Parental consent to photographs and videos will be obtained, using the consent form and principles in the diocesan guidelines.

All those using social media, text messaging and e-mail to communicate with children and young people must take care to follow the diocesan guidelines.

Our procedures for working with vulnerable adults

We accept the Diocese definition of a Vulnerable Adult:

“Any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of him or herself, or to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.”

Everyone within our church community has a responsibility to ensure that there is a welcome for all people, including those seen as vulnerable. A policy about the safeguarding of adults should be the concern of the whole congregation. The PCC, together with the incumbent, carries a duty of care for the safety of those who attend or use the church.