

Benefice of Toddington & Chalgrave

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The PCCs of St George of England Toddington and All Saints Chalgrave fully support the Church of England House of Bishops' Policy on Child Protection. We are also committed to providing appropriate care and protection for vulnerable adults.

We believe that every child and young person is a valued and respected member of our church community and they should be taught, nurtured and cared for in a safe, secure, tolerant, inclusive and loving environment.

Aims:

- a) To provide a safe and welcoming environment for children and young people and to provide protection for adults who work with them and care for them.
- b) To ensure that proper procedures are followed in the recruitment of staff and volunteers working with children and young people, and to provide adequate training and mentoring.
- c) To ensure sensible precautions are taken to eliminate opportunities for abuse to take place.
- d) To minimise risk to health and safety.
- e) To ensure that all who have regular contact with children and young adults under the age of 18 and vulnerable adults of all ages, obtain a Disclosure and Barring Services Check (previously Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Disclosure) and that it is up-dated as necessary.
- f) To listen to any concerns raised
- g) To take appropriate action swiftly in accordance with procedures laid down by the Diocese of St Albans.

Definitions of Child Abuse

The PCCs recognise that there are four categories of abuse:

Neglect

Sexual Abuse

Physical Abuse

Emotional Abuse

Responsibilities

The PCCs have elected a Child Protection Officer who is familiar with current policy and practice. The CPO is responsible for the maintenance of a register of leaders, volunteers and helpers and will ensure that DBS checks are undertaken where necessary. The CPO will work with the Rector in the first instance when allegations are made or concerns raised, and together with the PCCs are responsible for responding appropriately.

Procedures

Without exception a minimum of one DBS checked leader and a helper should be present at every activity where 5 children or less are involved. When 5 or more children or young people are present then a minimum of one DBS checked leader should be present plus one helper for every 10 children should be present, eg a group of 20 children would require one DBS checked adult present plus two helpers.

In planning activities thorough research should be undertaken to assess the risks

Consent should be sought from parents when photographs are taken and permission given for them to be posted on notice boards, website or any printed material.

Groups of children should never be left unattended

The group leader should maintain a register of all in attendance, children and adults alike.

An up-to-date register to be maintained with names and contact details of all authorised to lead and volunteer at events where children and young adults are present.

Training in awareness and recommended procedures to be given to all leaders and volunteers who are CRB checked

Listen appropriately to all concerns. Do not promise to maintain confidentiality

The Rector to be contacted immediately in the case of any expression of concern or actual abuse.

All concerns to be recorded by CPO accurately and without delay and this information passed on to Diocesan Child Protection Officer

This Policy should be reviewed annually by the PCCs.

Child Protection Policy should be displayed in a prominent place on each church's main notice board.

April 2013