

# Parish of Tidenham

## Safeguarding Policy for working with Children and Young People



The Church's Mission Statement:

*"Living Life Together in the Flow of God's Love."*

### Objective

The purpose of this policy is to give clear direction to staff and others about the expected codes of behaviour in dealing with Child Safeguarding issues. As a Church the PCC is committed to the development of good practice and using sound procedures. All Child Safeguarding concerns and referrals will be handled sensitively, professionally and in ways which support the needs of the child and in line with Government policy. In addition, the PCC complies with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, as stated in section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

### 1. Church Statement

The Church's Mission Statement applies to children and young people as much as it does to adults. The Parochial Church Council (hereafter, "the PCC") recognises and acknowledges the importance of working with children and young people within the church and takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people entrusted to the church's care.

### 2. Church Mission

As part of the mission the PCC is committed to:

- Listening to, relating effectively and valuing children and young people whilst ensuring their protection within church activities
- Encouraging and supporting parents/carers/guardians
- Ensuring that those working with children and young people (hereafter, "children's workers") are given support and training
- Having a system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse
- Maintaining good links with the statutory childcare authorities
- Following Safer Recruitment procedures

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### 3. Areas of Policy

The PCC recognises that many children and young people today are the victims of neglect, and physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Accordingly, the PCC has adopted the policy contained in this document (hereafter “the policy”).

The policy covers the regular children’s and young people’s meetings such as Splash Junior Church, Youth Groups and any associated outings or club meetings. In addition, the policy covers any crèche provision during church services or any other church activity requiring a crèche. Baby-sitting is excluded from this policy. The policy also applies to bell ringing activities that occasionally involve children or young people.

The policy sets out agreed guidelines relating to the following areas:

- Responding to allegations of abuse, including those against leaders or members of the church
- Appointment of children’s workers
- Supervision of activities, and good practice issues (for example: discipline, transporting children etc)
- Helping victims of abuse
- Working with offenders

Guidelines have been prepared, see Appendix 1 and the flow charts on notice boards in all three churches, and must be read in conjunction with this policy.

### 4. Legal Framework

This policy has been written to comply with the following government legislation and statutory guidance documents.

#### Legislation

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Data Protection Act 2018, complements the European Union's [General Data Protection Regulation](#) (GDPR). 2016/697
- Equality Act 2010
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, Section 5

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### Statutory Guidance

HM Government “Working together to Safeguard children” 2015

HM Government “Changes to statutory guidance: working together to Safeguard children Regulations 2018”

Revised “Prevent Duty guidance” issued under Section 29 of Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

### **5. Implementation**

This policy forms a part of the Safeguarding policies and take into account Diocesan guidance and Government legislation and guidelines as above. The PCC complies with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, as stated in section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. The PCC has also adopted the Church of England’s 2018 Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

Our policy applies to all paid staff and volunteers.

- Ensuring we practice Safer Recruitment in checking the suitability of Staff and volunteers to work with children. Raising awareness of child safeguarding issues.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

Parish Safeguarding Officer is: **Marilyn Henderson**.

### The responsibilities of the Parish Safeguarding Officer in the parish

- Shares responsibility with parish priest Reverend David Treharne and the PCC for the safeguarding of children who come into the care of the church.
- Should be involved with careful selection and appointment of children and youth leader and be one of the interviewers of prospective volunteers or paid leaders.
- Should ensure that the PCC have a full list of volunteers working with children and young people in the settings appropriate to the church/benefice.
- Should be alert to any unusual behaviour or inappropriate relationship on the part of any church worker with a child or young person.
- Should, in the event of suspicion or an allegation of abuse, know when to seek advice from one of the Diocesan Advisors and when it is necessary to inform Social Services immediately.

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<b>6. General</b>
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- The PCC is committed to providing training for children’s workers that covers the content of this policy.
- The PCC will be informed of the names of those that work with children and young people and will be kept notified of any changes.
- The PCC nominated Marilyn Henderson to be the Parish Safeguarding Officer to share with the Parish Priest the responsibility for child safeguarding, and to whom all cases of suspected or alleged abuse must be reported immediately.
- The PCC will make adequate provision for insurance cover.
- A copy of this policy will be made available to members of the church and to parents/carers/guardians to read, and note its contents in conjunction with appendix 1.
- This policy will be reviewed by Tidenham’s PCCs Parish Safeguarding Officer whenever there is a significant change in legislation or annually whichever is the soonest.
- On 8 April 2019, the PCC minuted that they had adopted the Church of England’s 2018 Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

Date: .....

Signed: .....

**Reverend David Treharne**  
**Parish Priest, Parish of Tidenham**