



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Policy Number: 2

Policy Title: Safe Guarding

Approved: 15 September 2022 Date for review: May 2023

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The following policy was agreed at the APCM held on Sunday 3rd April 2022 and the following Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held following.

In accordance with the **House of Bishops' Policy Statements 'Promoting a Safer Church' (2017)** and **'Protecting All God's Children' 4th edition (2010)** and the **Diocesan Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Diocese' (2018)** our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.

St Anne's and St Andrew's Church Centre, 125 Salusbury Road London NW6 6RG
Administrator: 02076043053 info@stannes-and-standrews-nw6.org.uk

- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- 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.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- 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 church appoints Dame Alice Hudson as the Church Safeguarding Officer.

ALL user groups must have their own safe guarding policy; and any groups working with children will ensure that staff and volunteers have had the necessary safe guarding checks and training.

ALL User Groups will be provided with a copy of the safeguarding policy and will sign to say that they agreed to work within the safeguarding principles of the PCC. This policy forms part of the hire agreement.

Section 2: - Participation of children under the age of 16 in public events and activities held at St Anne's and St Andrew's.

St Anne's and St Andrew's is a public space used by a range of adult and children's groups, and at times by vulnerable adults. All groups will be aware that it is a public building and that children, and vulnerable adults need to be supervised at all times. This includes ensuring that toilets are safe, and monitored when children are using them during a groups activity.

CONSENT

It is important to ensure that children and young people are able to make an informed choice about whether to be involved in specific church activities. Where children are invited to attend a specific event (i.e. children's / youth groups). This can be done by sending the children and young people a briefing document or meeting with them before the event

/ activity and talking them through what it involves. Children and young people should be given the option at any time before or during an event or activity to say if they feel unhappy or uncomfortable with what is happening and they must be listened to.

Parental consent must be obtained for all children and young people up to the age of 18 years, unless they are 16 years or over and living and working independently from their parents/guardians and are not part of the looked after system where the local authority should then be approached. **It is the responsibility to ensure that consent is gained for any children attending their activity, or that parents are present during the activity.**

Consent will be needed for:

- the activities the group will engage in, especially when taking place off site or addressing an issue that could be deemed controversial
- the taking and use of any photographs or video clips
- the use of private cars to transport children
- the use of electronic means of communication with children (email, text, social network sites)

In the event of an open public event:

It is expected that children under the age of 16 will attend any advertised event with their parents/guardians and will remain their responsibility during the event.

The event organiser will ensure that all safeguarding requirements of this policy are adhered to, ensuring that guardians know their responsibility.

In the event that a young person, under the age of 16, arrives at an advertised public event, it is the responsibility of the event organiser to:

1. enquire as to the age of the young person
2. Seek consent from the young person's parent/guardian to be at the public event.
3. Ensure that a designated adult (who has the appropriate safe guarding checks) is given oversight of said young people during the event.
4. If consent is unable to be obtained, arrangements for the young people to return home should be made.
5. In the event that there are concerns about supervision, the **safe guarding policy** should be followed in consultation with the **safe guarding officer**, and if necessary by contacting the community police by dialling **101**.