

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

PARISH OF SAFFRON WALDEN WITH WENDONS AMBO, LITTLEBURY, ASHDON AND HADSTOCK

The Parish of Saffron Walden with Wendons Ambo, Littlebury, Ashdon and Hadstock recognises the importance of its ministry to children and young people and its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people entrusted to the care of the church.

This Policy covers all groups and events involving children and young people (up to 18 years of age) held in the parish for which any of the member churches is responsible. **This policy will be reviewed annually.**

MISSION STATEMENT

As part of its mission the Church of England is committed to:

1. Valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people as well as promoting their welfare and protection.
2. Safe recruitment, supervision and training for all the children's youth worker and helpers within the church, whether employed or volunteers.
3. Adopting a procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse.
4. Encouraging and supporting parents and carers.
5. Supporting those affected by abuse.
6. Giving pastoral support to those who have abused.
7. Making links with statutory childcare authorities and other organisations if and when required.

POLICY

The Parish of Saffron Walden with Wendons Ambo, Littlebury, Ashdon and Hadstock recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children and young people. It also acknowledges that they can be victims of physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect. The Parish has therefore adopted the procedures set out in this Policy which is consistent with and subject to the Diocesan Child Protection Policy.

The Parish has the appropriate arrangements in place for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. In particular these arrangements include:

1. procedures for staff and others to report concerns that they may have about the children and young people that they meet
2. recruitment procedures for staff and volunteers who will work directly with children and young people
3. appropriate codes of practice for staff and volunteers, particularly those working directly with children and young people.

If and when required, the nominated Child Protection Officer, with support from the PCC, or relevant, responsible DCC, will work with the statutory agencies and other organisations.

RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Under no circumstances should a church leader or helper carry out their own investigation into the allegations or suspicions of abuse. The person in receipt of the information should do the following:

1. Write down what you have seen or been told as quickly as possible after the incident, sign and date. Do not add your thoughts or feelings. This record must be factual and as accurate as possible. Use the words expressed by the individual.
2. Inform the nominated Child Protection Officer as soon as possible. If this person is not available, speak to the Team Rector. If the Team Rector is also not available, speak to the appropriate Team Vicar or another member of the clergy or, as the final option, to a Churchwarden.
3. If an allegation is made against anyone in the church (including the Team Rector, a Team Vicar, a member of the clergy or a Churchwarden), **do not** speak to this person about the allegation.
4. Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than the nominated Child Protection Officer, Team Rector, appropriate Team Vicar, member of the clergy or a Churchwarden.
5. If a referral needs to be made to Social Services, do not delay if the nominated person is not available.
6. **Do not** question or interview the child or young person to obtain more information yourself.

7. Notify the Diocesan Child Protection Adviser as soon as possible after the incident and when referral is made to Social Services or Police.

If in any doubt what to do, contact the Diocesan Child Protection Adviser.

The role of the nominated Child Protection Officer is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information to Social Services and the Diocesan Child Protection Adviser. It is the task of Social Services to investigate the matter under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989. Guidance on taking action is found in Section 3 of the Diocesan Child Protection Policy available at the Parish Office.

APPOINTMENT, SUPPORT AND TRAINING

1. The Parish will follow the Guidelines in the Diocesan Child Protection Policy when recruiting new volunteers or employed people to work with children and young people.
2. The recruitment process will be in line with the Diocesan Child Protection Policy, section 9.
3. Each person is expected to complete a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Application Form, a Confidential Disclosure Form and give the names of 2 referees. References will be taken up by the Team Rector. Clearance from the CRB is required before the adult can begin working with children or young people.
4. Retired members of the clergy will also complete CRB forms.
5. Re-checking for CRB clearance will take place every three years, as advised by the Diocesan Child Protection Officer. Portable CRB clearance is no longer acceptable.
6. The CRB check will be in line with the Diocesan Child Protection Policy section 11.
7. The Parish is committed to ongoing child protection training for leaders and helpers who work with children and young people. Each person working with children/young people must attend a child protection training course at least every 2 years.

ACTIVITIES WITH CHILDREN

Any planned activities must follow the good practice and health and safety guidelines contained in the Diocesan Child Protection Policy, Section 8, for activities on and off church premises.

WORKING WITH EX-OFFENDERS

Where a known ex-offender is in the Parish, a written agreement must be in place outlining in what this person is allowed, and is not allowed, to take part.

The Team Rector and the nominated Child Protection Officer will be required to monitor the situation. There will be regular meetings with the person to establish that the agreement is being adhered to and to offer pastoral care as required.

SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ABUSED

Pastoral care and working with statutory agencies as appropriate should be offered to any victim of abuse. If it is not possible to offer this support the Diocesan Child Protection Adviser must be informed to establish pastoral support from another source.

If you have any concerns for a child or young person in relation to any child protection matter, talk to the nominated Child Protection Officer or the Team Rector for advice about what to do.

ACCESS TO THIS POLICY

Every adult working with, or volunteering to help with, children and young people's activities on behalf of this parish must have a copy of this policy and of the separate document: "Practice Guidelines For Keeping Our Children And Young People Safe".

A copy of the Diocesan Child Protection Policy can be seen in the Parish Office or on the Diocesan web-site. The nominated Child Protection Officer also has a copy and they can be contacted to give access to this document.

SAFFRON WALDEN DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL **SCHEDULE TO THE PARISH CHILD PROTECTION** **POLICY**

Saffron Walden DCC, acting under the delegated authority of the PCC, endorsed this policy agreeing that it applies to all groups and events involving children and young people (up to 18 years of age) for which it is responsible on 3rd March 2010.

The children and youth groups for which SWDCC is responsible include:

Sunday Club
Shockwaves
Aftershock
Junior Choir
St Mary's Tinies

USEFUL CONTACTS

- Team Rector : Revd David Tomlinson: 01799 500947
- Nominated Parish Child Protection Officer: Françoise Davis: 01799 528323
- Nominated District Child Protection Officer: Françoise Davis: 01799 528323
- Youth Worker: Andy Finn: 01799 528731
- Churchwardens: Bron Ferland: 01799 521497
Peter Taylor: 01799 500292
- Chairman, Children and Youth Committee: Steve Hasler: 01799 525041
- Diocesan Child Protection Adviser: Revd. Jean Halliday: 01245 294438
or 07903 831965
- Childline: 0800 1111
- NSPCC: 0800 800500

A copy of the Diocesan Child Protection Policy also can be viewed by contacting the SWDCC Youth Worker who has a copy.