

THE NORTH BELTISLOE GROUP OF PARISHES

POLICY FOR PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Christians are called upon to recognise the unique status of children (and vulnerable adults). There is a special need to respect them as individuals and protect them from vulnerability. Jesus warned that those who exploit or abuse children (and vulnerable adults) deserve profound condemnation. Within the Kingdom of God, children (and vulnerable adults) matter in their own right and are to be taken seriously.

(Page one Chapter one Policy Document by the House of Bishops 1999)

This active policy is designed to be used with reference to the policy documents issued by the House of Bishops with regard to the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Copies of these documents are available from the Parish Priest (01476 596991) or online at cofe.anglican.org

- 1 Promoting a safer church.
- 2 Protecting all God's children.
- 3 Responding to domestic abuse.
- 4 Responding well to those who have been sexually abused.
- 5 Safer recruitment

Priest with Pastoral Charge – Rev'd Anna Sorensen 01476 586991
Designated Benefice Safeguarding Officer – Mr Tony Clayton 01476 585711

Diocesan Safeguarding Team
01522 504080 07432 522412
debbie.johnson@lincoln.anglican.org
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This benefice recognises that the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is paramount and that we have a duty of care when they are in our charge. We will do everything we can do to provide a safe and caring environment whilst they attend our activities.

We will:

- Treat all children/young people and vulnerable adults with respect and celebrate their achievements
- Carefully recruit and select all adults whether paid or voluntary. The procedure for this can be obtained from any of the Parish Safeguarding Officers
- Provide assessment of risk for key roles for those working with children/young people and vulnerable adults
- Respond to concerns and allegations appropriately

The safeguarding officer is responsible for:

- Responding to and recording concerns. When there are concerns about the welfare of any child, young person or vulnerable adult in our church community, those concerned are expected to share their concerns with the appropriate safeguarding officer or the parish priest.
- Ensuring all those who work with children/young people and vulnerable adults are subject to the Diocese protection procedures for recruiting volunteers to work with children/young people and vulnerable adults, and follow the code of conduct set out below
- That those in the parishes are offered suitable training opportunities

Disclosure:

In cases of disclosure of abuse, by either children, parents, vulnerable adults or carers, there is a legal obligation to share any information received with the appropriate authority. If the parish priest is implicated, then the relevant Church Warden should be informed, and the matter referred immediately to the Bishop's Safeguarding Officer.

CODE OF CONDUCT

In our church community we will:

- Treat all children and vulnerable adults with respect and dignity
- Ensure that their welfare and safety is paramount at all times
- Always act in a professional way and not accept bullying
- Liaise openly with parents and carers
- Only use physical contact where appropriate
- Avoid being alone with children and vulnerable adults at all times
- Listen to and act upon any disclosures/allegations/concerns of child and vulnerable adult abuse as set out above
- Attend appropriate children and vulnerable adult protection training
- Make activities fun and enjoyable

For people working in key roles with children and vulnerable adults:

- Supervision should be in place to ensure the code of conduct is being followed
- Issues of management of children and vulnerable adults regarding such things as: one to one toileting, counselling or transport, should be discussed and thought through in the light of the code of conduct
- Clear statements should be made about non-compliance with the code of conduct by individuals:

Non-compliance will automatically mean the person will not work with children or vulnerable adults within church activities

Any concerns about that person's behaviour regarding children or vulnerable adults will be reported to the Bishop's Safeguarding Officer and/or the Police

Appendix 1 – Guidelines for personal safety when making pastoral visits

- 1 Consider visiting with another person if you are entering a situation that is new or uncertain.
- 2 Let someone know where you are and how long you intend to be. You may wish someone to 'phone you at an agreed time. Make sure your phone is charged and on.
- 3 If you are at all uneasy or frightened, simply leave. In an unknown situation choose a seat closest to the door.
- 4 Do not give personal details to anyone you do not know.
- 5 Do not accept donations in hand from anyone you don't know. Ask the donor to put it in a sealed and signed envelope.
- 6 If you have **any** concerns about safeguarding issues, share them with an appropriate person.

(Updated 4.4.2019)