

PARISH OF WOMBWELL

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Introduction

'As members of the Church of England we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community, of all ages. It is the responsibility of each member to protect children and young people from physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and from neglect'. *Diocese of Sheffield Safeguarding Children Policy.*

Principles

- The Parish aims to provide a secure and supportive environment in which children can develop and be helped towards a mature faith in Christ, in accordance with the Parish Mission Statement.
- The Parish fully endorses the principle, enshrined in the Children's Act 1989, that the welfare of the child is paramount.
- The Parish recognises that it is required by God to foster relationships of the utmost integrity, respect, truthfulness and trustworthiness. Clergy and laity who come into contact with children within the church need to operate within a carefully thought out framework of policy, procedures and good practice which will ensure that children are safeguarded and nurtured within a culture of informed vigilance.
- A child is anyone under the age of 18.

Responsibilities of the PCC

- To accept the Sheffield Diocesan Safeguarding Children Guidelines.
- To ensure that all those authorised to work with children and young people are properly appointed, trained and supported and will provide all authorised personnel with a copy of the parish safeguarding children policy.
- To pay particular attention to children with special needs and those from ethnic minorities to ensure their full integration and protection within the church community.
- To create a culture of informed vigilance which takes children seriously.
- To provide, as appropriate, support for all parents and families in the congregation.
- To ensure that those who may pose a threat to children and young people are effectively managed and monitored.
- To ensure that appropriate health and safety policies and procedures are in place.
- To provide appropriate insurance cover for all activities undertaken in the name of the parish.
- To review the implementations of the safeguarding children policy, procedures and good practice annually.

Responsibilities of the Parish Safeguarding Representative

- To work with the Incumbent and the PCC to implement the Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures, following the guidelines and recommended good practice in the Diocesan Handbook.
- To supervise the process of recruiting volunteers to work with children and young people in the Parish.
- To obtain a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure via the diocesan system for all volunteers and update them every 3 years.
- To ensure that any concerns about a child, or the behaviour of an adult, are appropriately reported when it comes to their attention.

Approval

This policy was reviewed in November 2025

Rev J Armstrong - Rector

(The Safeguarding Children representative for the Parish is Mr T Harness)