



## POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

### **We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:**

- are youth-friendly and child-friendly and nurture their positive development;
- enable children and young people to be active contributors to the church community;
- protect children and young people from actual or potential harm;
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

### **We recognise that:**

- the welfare of the child or young person is paramount;
- all children (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- abuse of children can occur in all communities and is most likely to occur within families and by people known to the child;
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

### **We will endeavour to safeguard children and young people as follows:**

#### **In all our activities -**

- valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people;
- fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with children and young people, in co-operation with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities.

#### **In our recruitment of paid staff and volunteers, following Diocesan procedures in -**

- ensuring careful selection and recruitment of ordained and lay ministers as appropriate, voluntary workers, and paid workers with children and young people, in line with safer recruitment principles and checks;
- providing supervision, support, and training.

#### **In our publicity -**

- sharing information about good safeguarding practice with children, parents, and all those working with them.

#### **When concerns are raised, following Diocesan procedures in -**

- responding without delay to every concern raised that a child or young person may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm; or about the behaviour of an adult or child;
- working with the diocese and appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into child abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community;
- challenging any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

**In our care -**

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
- ensuring that appropriate pastoral care is offered to any member of our church community against whom an allegation is made.

**In our supervision, following Diocesan procedures in -**

- ensuring, in partnership with the diocese and other agencies, that care and supervision is provided for any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or young person, or to pose a risk to them.

**We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures annually.**

Based on Southwark Diocese Template

Last Reviewed in Oct 2023