

MODEL CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
FOR PARISHES WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SUFFOLK

Parish:

Priest with Pastoral Charge:

Designated Child Protection Officer:

Alternate Child Protection Officer:

This parish recognises that the welfare of children and young people is paramount and that we have a duty of care when they are in our charge. We will do everything that we can to provide a safe and caring environment whilst they attend our activities.

We will:

- Treat all children and young people with respect and celebrate their achievements
- Carefully recruit and select all adults whether paid or voluntary
- Provide a code of conduct for all staff to include the assessment of risk for key roles when working with children and young people
- Respond to concerns and allegations appropriately

When there are concerns about the welfare of any child or young person, *all adults*, in our church community are expected to share their concerns and allegations with the child protection officer or parish priest.

The child protection officer is responsible for:

- Monitoring and recording concerns
- Ensuring that all those who work with children and/or young people are aware of the Diocese Child Protection procedures
- Making referrals to social services without delay
- Liaising with other agencies
- Arranging training for all those who work with children and/or young people

Confidentiality:

In cases of disclosure of abuse, by children, young people, or parents, all are obliged to share the information with the child protection officer who may refer those concerns to social services.

Staff Allegations:

All allegations of staff should be referred to social services by the Parish Priest. If the Priest is implicated then the Church Warden should be informed and, following procedures, inform Social Services and either the Rural Dean, Archdeacon or Bishop.

MODEL CHILD PROTECTION CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR PARISHES WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SUFFOLK

In our church community we will:

- ❖ Treat all children and young people 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 if absolutely necessary
- ❖ Avoid being alone with children and young people at all times
- ❖ Listen to, and act upon, any disclosures/allegations/concerns of abuse against children or young people
- ❖ Attend appropriate child protection training
- ❖ Make activities fun and enjoyable

For people with key roles working with children and/or young people:

- ❖ Supervision should be in place to ensure that the code of conduct is being followed
- ❖ Issues concerning the management of children and young people regarding such things as, one-to-one working during organ lessons or transport, should be discussed and thought through in light of the code of conduct
- ❖ A clear statement should be made regarding the non-compliance to the code of conduct by individuals; *i.e.*

'Non-Compliance will automatically mean that the person will not work with children or young people within church activities'

Any concerns about that person's behaviour regarding children and/or young people will be reported to the Bishop's Child Protection Officer and/or the Police