

Parish of St Mary Magdalene with St Martin

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 by:
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.

In our use of social media –

- Please see Appendix A, attached.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures annually.

Date Policy was last reviewed by PCC: 21st March 2017

Date PCC should next review policy by: 31st March 2018

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Safeguarding Policy

Appendix A: Policy for Safeguarding Youth - Social media and digital communication

This policy is to supplement the STMMM Children Safeguarding Policy already in place and to be implemented with Inspire youth (School year 7 – 13).

We know social media is widely used by members of Inspire and can be a useful tool for communicating efficiently with people. We also recognise the need for clear practical guidelines and safeguarding policy to ensure proper use of these channels in connection with the group.

The main purpose for social media communication will be to organise and remind members of Inspire about social and church events.

Parents and Carers will continue to be informed of all meetings outside of Sunday morning Church.

For the foreseeable future we will use 'Whats App' as our social media network

General use practical guidelines for youth leaders

- Recommended not to send messages after 8pm to keep a personal life boundary
- Conversations to be kept in the group message that everyone can see.

The only likely reason for 1 -2- 1 conversation *via social media* ? is someone asking for personal pastoral guidance in which case:

- Messages will be kept and available for review by other leaders.

- A response will be given inviting the young person to meet up to talk if needed.
 - Any necessary ongoing conversations will be had face to face, one to one where appropriate, not via social media, and following the usual safeguarding procedures.
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- Be aware that digital communication means tone and body language cannot be used as indicators of meaning, therefore terms such as "xx" etc. should not be used in text.
 - Youth Leaders will be the administrators of the group moderating the conversation
 - Only those in Inspire will be in the group conversation to respect people's private information and *each* can remove themselves from the group conversation at any time
 - All content and will be in line with Church of England and St Mary's teaching
 - The people in the group will be made aware that they can speak to the administrating youth leaders or safeguarding lead Karen Payne or Vicar Amanda if they are uncomfortable with the content or someone's conduct