

St Michaels and All Angels
Safeguarding Policy for Children and Adults
July 2019

Policy Statement

We, at St Michaels are committed to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with all adults and children.

This includes paying due regard to the beliefs and wishes of adults and children both when a safeguarding concern arises and in the development and delivery of church led activities including worship. This includes creating an environment in which people of all faiths and none are respected and where extremist views are not tolerated.

- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable, and
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.

What is Safeguarding?

At one time or another we are all vulnerable and may struggle to protect ourselves from harm caused by others. Everyone in the church community has a responsibility to ensure there is a welcome for all people and a responsibility for the safety, well-being and protection of others.

Safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk is the responsibility of everyone.

For further information on the Safeguarding Definitions please refer to the Diocesan website entitled 'What is Safeguarding'

Roles and responsibilities

The PCC and Incumbent are responsible for ensuring that a safeguarding policy is in place for Children and Adults which meets the requirements of the safeguarding policies of the House of Bishops and the Diocese of Bristol, that these policies are reviewed annually by the PPC and updated where necessary and that safeguarding procedures are in place and agreed by the PCC.

Good safeguarding practice requires there to be a lead person in each organisation who takes responsibility for supporting others in their organisation with good practice. This individual forms

part of a clear structure for managing safeguarding concerns and practice (See “Working Together 2015”).

The Safeguarding team at St Michaels consists of

Ruth Huband, Nominated Parish Safeguarding Officer

Geoff Sowden, Vicar

Jo Vizor, Children’s and Youth Warden

Bella Fasham, Schools worker

Karen Jankinson, Blunsdon Safeguarding Officer

In the first instant Ruth Huband can be contacted by email safeguarding.stmichaels@hotmail.com or by mobile 07976 641729

Raising Safeguarding Concerns:

We will respond without delay to every concern raised which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, or you think may be at risk in any way, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

Who should concerns be communicated too?

Bristol Diocesan has specific advice on their website “I’ve got a concern about the safety/wellbeing of a child/vulnerable adult WHAT SHOULD I DO?”

To contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer Ruth Huband please phone 07976641729

If the PSO is not available or the concern/complaint is about them please contact:

Geoff Sowden, Vicar 01793 765554 or

[Diocesan Safeguarding Team](#) (0117 9060100).

If you think you should contact Social Services direct about a child or vulnerable adult at risk

Local Authority Children’s team 01793 466903.

Local Authority Childrens Out of Hours Team 01793 436699.

If you think a child is in immediate danger dial Police 999

Local Authority Adults team 01793 463555

Local Authority Adult Emergency Out of Hours Team 01793 436699

Police 101 or 999 Police in an emergency

St Michaels Church is committed to positive information sharing practice including appropriate seeking of consent to share, confidentiality, sharing of information internally and with statutory bodies. We also undertake to retain, store and destroy records in line with current best practice.

Safer Recruitment:

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service disclosures and confidential declaration.

Practice Guidance:

Groups for children and young people within St Michaels and All Angels are:

Principle Sunday Schools:

0-4 Creche

Reception – Yr5

Yr 6 – Yr9

Youth Groups:

Yr 6

Yr 7-Yr 9

Yr 10 +

Youth Service

Yr 6 upwards

Other Activities include:

Craft and Film Days, Saturday Family Drop in, School trail sessions within the church.

The PCC also recognises that children and young people regularly offer their gifts during many church activities (bell ringing, choir, music group, welcome team, sound technicians etc)

Ratios of children to adults recommended by Ofsted will be adhered to at all times:

0-2yrs – One Adult to every 2 children

2-3yrs – one adult to every four children

3-8yrs – one adult to every eight children

Over 8 yrs – one adult to every twelve children

A minimum of two adults who have been approved (at least one person should have enhanced DBS) under the safe recruiting procedures must be present, however small the group. Planned activities/groups will not run unless at least two adults are present. If only two adults are present they must not be husband and wife.

Record Keeping

All confidential material (including application forms, reports of exceptional circumstances or observations of concern, registers) will be stored appropriately.

Work with Children and Young People

We will adhere to the principles laid out in Protecting All God's Children 2010 including the 'Model Code of Safer working practice' found on pages 63-71

We will pay particular attention to any activity that may carry additional risk e.g. 1-1 mentoring, youth peer groups, overnight stays or activities and use of vehicles.

We will seek additional advice and guidance from the Bristol youth and children's advisor for support and understanding of the above risks and good practice when required.

We will pay regard to the risks associated with photography and the use of social media. Additional information on this can be found at www.safenetwork.org.uk and www.bristol.anglian.org/parish-resources/communication/social-media-in-ministry-guidelines/social-media-the-risks/

Work with Adults

We will adhere to the principles laid out in Promoting a Safer Church 2017

Additional Issues

We will ensure that all church activities are covered under St Michaels Insurance and that special trips and activities are raised and documented in the minutes at PCC meetings.

Hire of Church Premises – We will ensure that terms and conditions are clear and that groups have their own safeguarding policy where relevant and that the premises are in a good, safe, condition for hiring. See diocesan advice on hiring agreements in the safeguarding section of the website.

Adopted by the Parochial Church Council

Date: June 2019

Document Control Information		
Document Issued By	Ruth Huband	Parish Safeguarding Officer
Document Issued Date	February 2016	
Review Frequency	Annual	
Last Review		
Changes at last review	<p>Reference to Safeguarding Policy 2016 References to Working Together 2015 References to Promoting a Safer Church 2017 Inclusion of references and links to 'Safer Recruitment 2015'</p> <p>Reference to Parish safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance: A Guide</p>	
Next Review Due	June 2020	