

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Parish of Christ Church Dore

1. Statement of Aims

Our aims are:

- To help young people in their Christian discipleship through a programme of learning and thereby to deepen their Christian faith
- To enable young people to experience the love of God
- To encourage a strong Christian fellowship
- Help young people realise their full potential, emotionally and spiritually
- To encourage young people to take a full part in the Church's life and worship
- To provide a safe meeting place for young people
- To encourage young people to become responsible adults
- To present the gospel to young people through indoor and/or outdoor leisure activities
- To promote equality of opportunity for all

2. Policy Statement

This P.C.C. adopts the policy statement of the Diocese and will display it prominently in all church premises. The P.C.C. expects all church workers to follow its Safeguarding Children Policy and will display it in a prominent place.

3. Application of the Policy

- This document covers the work of this parish with children and young people, in its services and in the groups meeting throughout the week (for details see annex).
- All new workers, whether paid or voluntary, working for church-based organisations, will be informed of the policy by the Vicar, the Safeguarding Children officer or the group leader. They will be expected to accept the policy and guidelines and work according to their requirements.
- All new members of the P.C.C. will be required to accept the policy and guidelines. The P.C.C. will appoint a group to oversee the Policy, and it will be placed on the agenda of the P.C.C. at least annually for review. The Safeguarding Children Officer can attend any PCC meeting and Safeguarding is a regular item on the agenda.
- The P.C.C. will appoint a Safeguarding Children Officer and will inform the Church House administrator of their details.

4. Church Premises

Any organisation booking the use of church premises will be informed of the need to observe the policy via a statement on the Booking Form. They should be expected to confirm they have a Safeguarding policy and appropriate insurance. Individuals booking church premises for private

functions will have the policy drawn to their attention and accept their responsibility for protecting children at that function.

5. Recruitment

The P.C.C. will follow the recruitment process included in the Safeguarding Children Policy. References, the Confidential Declaration and a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check via the Diocesan system will be, or have been obtained.

Appointment to any post, paid or voluntary, will not be made until these processes are complete. All appointments will be made on a conditional basis until the completion of a satisfactory probationary period.

It is the policy of Christ Church that all persons working with young people under the banner of Christ Church will be checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service every 3 years for their suitability to work with their client group.

All those working with children and young people will follow the good practice guidelines in the Diocesan Safeguarding Children Policy and Guidelines.

6. Registration and Parental Consent

All groups will keep a register of those attending each session. Parental consent forms, including emergency contact details, must be completed for all participants, and must be available to group leaders whenever the group meets. This applies to all groups, whether meeting on church premises or elsewhere.

7. Insurance

The P.C.C. will ensure that there is adequate insurance cover for all activities for children and young people.

8. Fire Regulations and Security

All group leaders will be aware of fire regulations and the positions of fire extinguishers. They will be vigilant as to the presence of anyone on the premises during the meetings of the groups. They should know whom to contact in an emergency relating to the building.

9. Food and Hygiene

If any group is involved in the preparation or selling of food sensible precautions will be taken to ensure good practice is followed.

10. First Aid and Accidents/Risk Assessment

There should be a properly stocked first aid kit accessible to each group. In the event of any accident, an incident and accident report form should be completed by the person responsible. This should be kept securely in a marked file in the Parish Office. Parents should also be informed of any accident. A risk assessment template is found on the Sheffield and Rotherham Diocesan website and is to be used when the group plans an activity beyond the normal meeting place. Examples of such activities would be Pathfinders party in Ecclesall Woods or tramp supper, or any organised visit to another site. The link for the risk assessment template is

<https://www.stpeterscollege.org.uk/risk-assessment>

11. Providing an Independent Person

Children and young people should have the opportunity to raise any concerns about any health and safety or protection matters. A

notice will be placed on the notice board and/or entrance to church and to all church premises with the name of the parish Safeguarding Officer, Childline telephone number and of any other independent person the parish appoints to afford this opportunity.

12. Allegations

If an allegation is received concerning the behaviour of an adult, the Diocesan Allegations Policy (a copy of which can be found in the Diocesan Safeguarding Children Policy) will be followed.

13. Concerns About or Reported by a Child

This parish will follow the Diocesan Guidelines and report the concern to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, or to the appropriate Archdeacon.

14. Internet safety

This parish will ensure that all children's leaders are aware of risks posed to children and leaders by the use of email, texting and social media.

15. Review

All children and young people's workers will meet to review their work on an annual basis with the incumbent and Church Safeguarding Children Officer. This should include a review of child protection issues and health and safety issues relating to each children's group. Safeguarding is a standing item at each PCC meeting should be reported to the P.C.C. The Parish Safeguarding Children Officer will review the parish policy annually and report to the P.C.C., who will record this review in their minutes. The P.C.C. will inform the Archdeacon via the visitation that this has been done. A copy of the current Parish Safeguarding Policy should be sent to the Archdeacon for inclusion in the parish file each year.

16. Training

Group leaders will be required to attend the Safeguarding training provided by the Diocese. The parish will consider its training needs at the time it reviews the Safeguarding Policy. If specific needs are identified the parish will consult with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

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Annex

This document covers the work of this parish with children and young people, in its services and in the groups meeting throughout the week. It also covers any work undertaken outside of the church buildings carried out under the auspices of the P.C.C.

Children's groups

The Children's groups associated with Christ Church Dore are:

- Pathfinders for young people who are aged 11 plus, meetings are Thursday evening every 2nd week 7.00pm to 8.30pm, Sunday breakfast every other week 9am to 10.30am, Tuesday tea club for 7-10 year olds at tea time every other week pilot starting November 2019.
- Young people attend events hosted by Soulroots Trust and they have a separate Safeguarding Policy, a copy of which is held in the Parish Office.

Bell ringers

This policy includes bell ringers who are under the age of 18. Bell ringing is a church activity which involves adults and young persons who participate as equals. It is also an activity which extends beyond Christ Church Dore; ringers from other churches ring at Dore and ringers from Dore visit other churches.

- Bell ringers practice on Friday evenings between 7.45pm and 9.15pm.
- Service ringing is usually between 9.30am and 10.00am on Sunday mornings.
- Wedding ringing is for between 20 and 30 minutes after the wedding service.
- Special occasion ringing generally relates to the church, village or national event.
- The teaching of bell ringing occurs when necessary.
- Bell ringing is distinctly different to other activities involving children or young adults and therefore has a specific Safeguarding Tower Young Persons Policy which forms part of the Christ Church Dore Safeguarding Children Policy.

This church appoints **Yvonne Twelvetree** to be the Parish Safeguarding Children's Officer

This church appoints **Sarah Oxby** to be an advocate for children (under 11 years)

This church appoints **Emma Archer** to be an advocate for youths (11yrs to 18yrs)

This statement was adopted by Christ Church Dore at a Parochial Church Council meeting

- held on 3rd November 2009
- Reviewed 23rd November 2010
- Reviewed and revised 26th November 2013
- Reviewed and revised 25th November 2014
- Reviewed and revised 20th October 2015
- Reviewed and revised 18th October 2016
- Reviewed and revised 24th October 2017
- Reviewed and revised 16th October 2018
- Reviewed and revised 8th October 2019

Incumbent vacant

Churchwardens Alison Saxton

and Richard Knights

Date 8th October 2019

