



St Anne's and St Andrew's Joint Council

Policy Number: 2

Policy Title: Safe Guarding

Approved: 23rd February 2016

Date for review: May 2017

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

1. We accept and endorse the principles set out in '*Safeguarding in the Diocese of London*' (2012 and revised Feb 2015); and the endorsed by the *URC in Safeguarding Children*, (2004, revised June 2015).
2. We commit ourselves to nurture, protect and safeguard all our members, particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults.
3. We recognise that safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church community.
4. We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection, appointment, training and support of those working in both paid and voluntary positions with children or vulnerable adults, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) disclosures and making appropriate referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service.
5. We will respond without delay to concerns or allegations that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and social care services in any investigation.
6. We will challenge any abuse of power by anyone in a position of trust.
7. We will seek to offer pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them appropriate pastoral support.
8. We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
9. It is the expectation that ALL user groups and member churches will have their own safe guarding policy; and that any groups working with children will ensure that staff and volunteers have had the necessary safe guarding checks and training.
10. All User Groups will be provide a copy of the safeguarding policy and will sign to say that they agreed to work within the safeguarding

principles of the Joint Council. This policy forms part of the hire agreement.

Section 2: - Participation of children under the age of 16 in public events and activities held at St Anne's and St Andrew's.

St Anne's and St Andrew's is a public space used by a range of adult and children's groups, and at times by vulnerable adults. All groups will be aware that it is a public building and that children, and vulnerable adults need to be supervised at all times. This includes ensuring that toilets are safe, and monitored when children are using them during a groups activity.

CONSENT

It is important to ensure that children and young people are able to make an informed choice about whether to be involved in specific church activities. Where children are invited to attend a specific event (i.e. children's / youth groups). This can be done by sending the children and young people a briefing document or meeting with them before the event / activity and talking them through what it involves. Children and young people should be given the option at any time before or during an event or activity to say if they feel unhappy or uncomfortable with what is happening and they must be listened to.

Parental consent must be obtained for all children and young people up to the age of 18 years, unless they are 16 years or over and living and working independently from their parents/guardians and are not part of the looked after system where the local authority should then be approached. **It is their responsibility to ensure that consent is gained for any children attending their activity, or that parents are present during the activity.**

Consent will be needed for:

- the activities the group will engage in, especially when taking place off site or addressing an issue that could be deemed controversial
- the taking and use of any photographs or video clips
- the use of private cars to transport children

- the use of electronic means of communication with children (email, text, social network sites)

In the event of an open public event:

It is expected that children under the age of 16 will attend any advertised event with their parents/guardians and will remain their responsibility during the event.

The event organiser will ensure that all safe guarding requirements of this policy are adhered to, ensuring that guardians know their responsibility.

In the event that a young person, under the age of 16, arrives at an advertised public event, it is the responsibility of the event organiser to:

1. enquire as to the age of the young person
2. Seek consent from the young person's parent/guardian to be at the public event.
3. Ensure that a designated adult (who has the appropriate safe guarding checks) is given oversight of said young people during the event.
4. If consent is unable to be obtained, arrangements for the young people to return home should be made.
5. In the event that there are concerns about supervision, the **safe guarding policy** should be followed in consultation with the **safe guarding officer**, and if necessary by contacting the community police by dialling 101.