

Child Policy Statement:

ST NICHOLAS, DUNNINGTON

This church recognises and values children and young people (anyone under the age of 18) as equal partners in the life and ministry of the church, and desires to encourage them to explore, discover and live out the Christian Gospel. The Parochial Church Council (hereafter PCC) takes seriously its obligations and responsibilities to protect and safeguard the welfare of any child or young person (i.e. under the age of 18 years) entrusted to the church's care.

Therefore in the church's provision and ministry, the PCC

- Accepts responsibility for the activities of the children's and youth groups operating under its auspices.
- Will actively seek to protect and safeguard the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and young people while in the care of the church.
- Will have clear procedures for responding to suspicions or allegations about abuse, or inappropriate behaviours towards children and young people by any member of the church, and procedures for working with known offenders attending the church.
- Will ensure that both employed and volunteer children's and youth workers and all other persons working within the church who may have contact with children or young people through this work are properly and appropriately selected and appointed as set out in the Diocese of York document: "A guide to Disclosure through the Criminal Records Bureau"
- Will ensure that children's/youth workers and volunteers are given adequate support and training.
- Will annually appoint a Parish / Benefice Child Protection Representative.
- Will annually review the Parish Child Protection Policy and procedures.
- Will maintain appropriate Third Party Liability insurance for the church work among children and young people.

Commitment to Children and Young People

In accepting the Church Child Protection Policy Statement, the PCC as agent of the whole church family in this Parish and within the Diocese of York is also committed:

A: To the children by:

- Listening to and valuing children and young people.
- Relating to children and young people effectively and appropriately.
- Ensuring their protection and minimizing risk of harm by their involvement in any church or related activities, both at the normal meeting place and when away from the normal meeting place.
- Encouraging and supporting children, parents and carers.
- To provide safe, relevant and engaging children's and youth work of the highest quality possible and with adequate resources, (bearing in mind the limitations of plant and human resources).

B: To workers, volunteers and the Child Protection Representative by:

- Giving and enabling appropriate support and training.
- Providing clear systems and procedures for dealing with concerns or allegations about abuse.
- Providing clear systems and procedures for the recruitment of workers and volunteers, including an Allegations of Child Abuse or Unsuitability to Work with Children Policy.
- Maintaining good links with Diocesan and statutory childcare authorities as necessary.

(Taken from the York Diocese Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy – March 2010)

Adopted by the PCC of St Nicholas, Dunnington on: