

Parish of St.Andrew and St.Mark Policy for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable adults

We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- are youth-friendly and child-friendly and nurture their positive development, and for those adults who are vulnerable
- enable children and young people and vulnerable adults to be active contributors to the church community
- protect children and young people and vulnerable adults 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 or vulnerable adult is paramount
- all children and vulnerable adults (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 and vulnerable adults can occur in all communities and is most likely to occur within families and by people known to the child or adult
- working in partnership with children, young people, vulnerable adults, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.

We will endeavour to safeguard children and young people and vulnerable adults by:

In all our activities -

- valuing, listening to and respecting children, young people and vulnerable adults
- fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with children, young people, and vulnerable adults 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, young people, and vulnerable adults 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 or vulnerable adult 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 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, young person, or vulnerable adult or to pose a risk to them.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures annually.