

The Parish of St Wilfrid's, Brayton

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in July 2023

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Cathy Rodgers as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.*

- *The PSO is not usually someone who works with children and young people. However, due to recruitment difficulties, the current PSO also leads Alive@5 family services and Friday Fun Club toddler group.

Incumbent:Rev. Pete Watson.....

Churchwarden:Pat Jarvis.....

Date:

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Procedure for responding to safeguarding allegations

Procedure if abuse is suspected

- If any member of staff or volunteer has concerns that a child, young person or vulnerable adult is experiencing some kind of abuse they must report these to the Parish Safeguarding officer (see contact details below) as soon as possible. Suspicions should not be discussed with anyone else apart from those listed below
- If this is not possible or the suspicions relate to the Parish Safeguarding officer then a report must be made directly to the Diocesan Safeguarding team
- If it is an emergency and an immediate threat, or the reporter feels that the Parish Safeguarding officer is not responding appropriately to their concerns then the police or child protection agencies should be contacted directly

Procedure if a child or young person makes a disclosure to a member of staff or volunteer

- As soon as possible after the conversation the member of staff or volunteer must make notes of the conversation, writing down exactly:
 - the time and place of the conversation
 - what the child or young person said
 - what was happening immediately beforehand.
- These notes need to be passed to the Parish Safeguarding officer as soon as possible.
- Once a child has talked about abuse it must be considered if it is safe for a child to return home to a potentially abusive situation. This decision should be reached in liaison with the Parish Safeguarding Officer and the Diocesan Safeguarding team if possible. On a rare occasion it might be necessary to take immediate action to contact social services and/or the police to discuss putting into effect safety measures for the child so that they do not return home
- All details of child protection concerns will be recorded on paper or virtually and stored securely according to the Parish Safeguarding policy
- Allegations against staff or volunteers will be investigated by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Where there are concerns that a child has been put in danger of abuse or has suffered abuse owing to the actions of a member of staff or volunteer social services or the police will be contacted.
- Details of any allegation which has not resulted in a referral will be kept securely in the same way as described above.

Procedure if a child or young person has an injury which may be caused by abuse

- If a child has an injury which may be a non-accidental injury, or symptoms of neglect, and a referral is to be made then the Parish Safeguarding officer should contact social services.
- If there has been a deliberate injury or where there are concerns about the child's safety the child's parents should not be contacted before first consulting with social services.

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- Where emergency medical attention is necessary it should be sought immediately. The doctor should be informed of any suspicion of abuse.
- If there is ambiguity about the nature of an injury that does not need urgent medical treatment then the Parish Safeguarding officer must seek advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding team

Procedure if there is an allegation of sexual abuse

- The Parish Safeguarding officer will contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and the Child Protection Services immediately. They will not speak to the parents – this will be dealt with by the appropriate agencies
- Under no circumstances will any member of the team attempt to carry out any investigation into the allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse. The role of the Parish Safeguarding officer is to sensitively collect the exact details of the allegations or suspicions and provide these to the Child Protection Services who will investigate the matter under the Children Act 1989.

Contact Details of relevant people and agencies

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Cathy Rodgers Tel. 01757 704303 safeguarding@stwilfridsparish.com
Diocesan Safeguarding Team	Tel.: 01904 699524 safeguarding@yorkdiocese.org
North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership	Tel: 0300 131 2 131
Archdeacon of York	Sam Rushton Tel. 01904 758241 Sam.rushton@yorkdioces.org