

# Safeguarding Policy

**31 Endyke Lane, Cottingham, HU16 4QD**

As a Leadership we recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children and young people. We acknowledge that children and young people can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. We wish to operate and promote good working practice to enable workers to run activities safely, develop good relationships and minimise the risk of false accusation.

As a Leadership we have adopted the procedures set out in this safeguarding policy.

The Leadership undertakes to:

- appoint a church Safeguarding Co-ordinator
- support the Safeguarding Co-ordinator in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and young people
- ensure all adults working with children/young people who are aged 18 and under, are interviewed and where appropriate to provide a personal reference, have been CRB checked (within the last 5 years), have undertaken the East Ridings on-line Child Protection Foundation course and provided a Pass Certificate. All these details will be held confidentially by the church administrator.
- Christchurch will appointed an official Church Photographer (see end of document) who is CRB checked and authorised by the Leadership Team to take photographs at special services, events, outings, youth events. The photographer is aware that **Looked After Children** cannot be included in church photographs. Photos of groups and individuals, including children attending the church, will from time to time be displayed on notice boards in the church following special events, as well as occasionally shown via powerpoint. It is the responsibility of any parent who has legitimate reasons why their photo or their child(rens) photo cannot be displayed, to ensure the Church Photographer is aware of this.
- All adults working with children/young people will be given a copy of the CCPAS booklet 'Help, I want to work safely with children and young people' which gives good sense guidelines on various aspects of working with children and young people in a safe way.
- review this Policy in light of any new Government guidelines and/or legislation

The Leadership Team are committed to developing a culture of awareness of safeguarding children and young people. This will be done by ensuring training is undertaken by children's workers, members of the church are provided with a copy of this Child Protection Policy, posters and information is readily available providing details on who to contact with concerns and where to get help and advice in relation to abuse or any other matter where they have a concern regarding children/young people. A copy of this Policy will be available to download on the Christ Church website.

**On the recommendation of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator and the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service, the Leadership will involve the local Children's Social Services and/or Police in regard to child abuse within Christ Church.**

## **Recognising and responding appropriately to an allegation or suspicion of abuse**

A person may abuse by inflicting harm, or failing to prevent harm. Children/young people in need of protection may be abused within a family, an institution or a community setting. Very often the abuser is known or in a trusted relationship with the child/young person.

The Churches Child Protection Advisory Service [www.ccpas.co.uk](http://www.ccpas.co.uk) provides a wealth of information on all aspects of child protection. It also has many useful articles on supporting children through difficult stages of childhood. We strongly recommend everyone visit and familiarise themselves with this website.

### **Signs which may indicate physical Abuse**

- Bruises, bites, cuts, scratches, burns, fractures etc that do not have an accidental explanation
- injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them
- Injuries to the body in places which are not normally exposed to falls, rough games, etc
- Injuries that have not received medical attention
- Reluctance to change for, or participate in, games or swimming

### **Signs which may indicate possible sexual abuse**

- Child with excessive preoccupation with sexual matters and detailed knowledge of adult sexual behaviour, or who regularly engages in age-inappropriate sexual play
- Mimics sexual activity in play, talks about or draws about sex
- Inappropriate bed-sharing arrangements at home
- Severe fears, phobias or nightmares, sometimes with overt sexual connotations

### **Signs suggesting emotional abuse**

- Attention-seeking behaviour
- Changes in mood or behaviour – becomes withdrawn or clingy. Also depression/aggression, extreme anxiety.
- Nervousness
- Obsessions or phobias
- Inappropriate relationships with peers and/or adults
- Running away/stealing/lying

## RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL/SEXUAL ABUSE

Under no circumstances should a worker carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse. It is the role of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/deputy to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to statutory agencies who have a legal duty to investigate.

**If there has been an injury to a child and you consider further threat or danger to a child from an adult, the police should be called immediately, using the emergency 999 number.**

- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, in the absence of the Co-ordinator, the Pastor should be informed. Immediate advice should be sought by telephoning The Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) 24hour help line:

**0845 120 45 50**

- Following this advice it may then be necessary to refer immediately to the local Children's Social Services

**Local children's Social Services 01482 448879**

**Out of hours emergency number 01482 788080**

- If CCPAS advise logging a concern with the local Police, the telephone number to use is 01430 808406
- **Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place.**
- The Leadership will fully support the Safeguarding Co-ordinator in their role, and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis.
- Although the Leadership hope that members of Christ Church will use this procedure, it is the right of any individual to make a direct referral to the safeguarding agencies or seek their own advice from CCPAS. If the individual is worried that their concerns have not been responded to appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator as to the appropriateness of a referral, they are free to contact an outside agency direct. **In making this statement the Leadership are demonstrating their commitment to effective safeguarding and the protection of children/young people.**

## **Responding to neglect and/or emotional abuse**

If you are concerned that a child/young person is showing signs of neglect and/or emotional abuse, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator will:

- Contact CCPAS 24 hour emergency helpline to ask for advice / or contact the local Children's Social Services for advice
- Not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so by the Children's Social Services.
- For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, or again, telephone the children's Social Services for their advice on the matter.
- Seek and follow advice given by CCPAS (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Children's Social Services.

## **Supporting those affected by abuse**

The Leadership gives its commitment to work with all appropriate statutory agencies in order to ensure support is provided for all those affected, should a case of abuse come to light within Christ Church.

**Christ Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator – Sue Wong Tel: 843957**

**Christ Church Official Church Photographer - David Peters**

## Leadership Team Safeguarding Statement

Christchurch Leadership Team recognises the importance of its ministry with children and young people and the responsibility to safeguard children and young people entrusted to our care:

- All children and young people have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.

We are committed to:

- Supporting the safeguarding co-ordinator in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children
- Ensuring that everyone working with children/young people are appropriately checked and trained in accordance with this Safeguarding Policy.
- Working with CCPAS, the local children's social services and/or local police should a case of abuse/suspected abuse be brought to our attention

**We will review this statement, our policy and procedures on a yearly basis.**

Signed by Christchurch Leadership Team

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Tones (Pastor)

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Mark Kennedy (Trustee)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Fran Bell

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jasper Shotts (Trustee)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Thomas

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robin Thompson

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Jane Honey

Dated: