



Parish Safeguarding Policy

The Parish of Farlington is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of the children and Adults at Risk within our church community, and also to encouraging an environment where all people and especially those who may be vulnerable are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety.

The Parochial Church Council adopts the Church of England policy 'Promoting a Safer Church' and are committed to the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, the relevant statutory legislation and guidance for the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Parish Safeguarding Policy Statements

Every year the PCC will review the Parish Safeguarding Policy, and display a copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement in each church and in each hall.

Parish copy of 'Promoting a Safer Church' poster

The PCC will ensure that the 'Promoting a Safer Church' poster containing the details of who to contact regarding a safeguarding matter is displayed in each church building and hall building.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

The PCC will appoint a Safeguarding Representative who will be responsible on behalf of the incumbent and PCC for implementing the Diocesan policy in respect of safeguarding children and adults at risk. The Parish Safeguarding Representative agrees to undertake the key responsibilities of the role as outlined in the Diocesan Safeguarding Guide.

Our Children's & Adult at Risk Safeguarding Officer is Christine Watkins

Paid Workers and/or Volunteers

All those who undertake work in a regulated activity with children and/or adults at risk in the parish on a voluntary or paid basis will be required to:

- Complete a Confidential Self Declaration Form
- Provide References
- To complete any necessary vetting application (DBS)

The Parish of Farlington will seek to ensure that a DBS check is only requested after a risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position (paid or voluntary) concerned. Using the appropriate risk assessment procedures the following parish posts have been identified as requiring a DBS check:

- Churchwarden
- PCC Member
- Messy Church Leader
- Organist (when anyone under 18 is a member of the choir)
- Head Server (when anyone under 18 is a server)

(For clarification, we are advised that the requirement for a DBS check for leaders of an activity or group which includes vulnerable adults is only possible where every member of the appropriate group is a vulnerable adult).

All Confidential Self Declarations Forms, references and results of DBS checks will be held securely by the Incumbent. Declarations and DBS checks must be undertaken every three years, or sooner if the individual moves to a new post, (unless the application was obtained in the previous six months and the nature of the work is similar).

Any person refusing such checks will not be allowed to work with or have unsupervised contact with children or adults at risk in the parish.

All those who work with children and/or adults at risk on a regular basis will be made aware of and should familiarise themselves with the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, and will be required to participate in the appropriate level of Diocesan Safeguarding training every three years.

Children's Activities, Groups and Events

The following children's, young person's and mixed age activities have been identified as PCC endorsed events and activities that fall under the Diocesan Safeguarding Procedures:

- None at present

All children and young people wishing to attend the above activities will be provided with a Registration Form, which must be completed and signed by their parents/carers before they take part.

Children who wish to take part in additional events such as church outings, holidays or sleepovers will not be allowed to participate in such activities unless the leaders of such event(s) receive a completed consent form from the parents or guardians of the child concerned, even if the parent or guardian accompanies the child on any such trip or activity. A new form must be completed for each separate activity.

Consideration will be given at all times for the health, safety and welfare of each child and young person, including supervision ratios, transport, first aid, premises and children with special needs.

Other Activities Involving Children

Messy Church

This activity is essentially a congregation of the parish where children always attend and are under the care of their parents/guardians. We will ensure that at least the key leader and one other person have completed the DBS process.

Adults at Risk Activities, Groups and Events

The following have been identified as PCC endorsed groups, events and activities that fall under the Diocesan Safeguarding Procedures:

- *Home Communion Visiting.*

Consideration will be given at all times for the health, safety and welfare of the adults at risk.

Hire of Church Premises

All those who book or use the church hall on a regular basis shall be required to sign a copy of the parish booking agreement and a declaration that they have read, understand and will follow the National Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Procedures as well as their own organisation's safeguarding procedures **The national policy takes precedence particularly regarding supervision ratios.**

SIGNED AND AGREED:

Incumbent: _____

Churchwarden/s: _____

Safeguarding
Representative/s: _____

Date: _____

Agreed at PCC at its September 2022 Meeting
Date of Review September 2023