

Our commitment to children and vulnerable adults

The Diocese of Ely's Safeguarding Policy

Foreword from the Bishop of Ely

The protection and nurture of vulnerable people in our community is a commitment that needs no introduction or explanation in this Diocese. We strive together to follow the example of Christ in reaching out to all people, in all circumstances, with a special compassion for those who may have nobody else to speak up for them.

The formation of the new Diocesan Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults has been a long process, peppered with changes in Government policies and consultations about what should and should not be included. There has been much reflection and discussion with the Diocesan Safeguarding Management Group about how to make our policy a practical working tool for those involved in this complex area of ministry.

I am happy to be able to commend our new Safeguarding Policy to you at last. I hope that all the work that has gone into making the relevant parts of it easy to access, as and when you need them, will pay off in confidence and surety of purpose in our work with children and adults across the Diocese.



We (the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Hemingford Grey and the Church of St James') follow current safeguarding advice in the selection and training of those who work with vulnerable individuals or groups, whether they are paid employees or volunteers. For anyone who is working for the church, parish or Diocese, and whose work includes regular, substantial, one-to-one, unsupervised or overnight contact, we insist on Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks and any other provision recommended by the Government at the time of employment.

We will challenge any apparent abuse of power by a person in a position of trust, and we will respond without delay to any complaint made that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed by someone working on behalf of the Church. All allegations will be referred to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser and we will co-operate with police and other statutory agencies in any enquiries they deem to be necessary.

We will seek to offer pastoral care to anyone who has suffered abuse. We will listen to concerns and do our best to support and uphold him or her. Where a member of the church community is known to have offended against a child or vulnerable adult, or where there is reasonable cause to believe a person poses a risk to vulnerable people, we will seek to offer ministry alongside appropriate risk assessment and supervision.

Procedures

The Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Policy and Procedures provide an everyday tool for those who work with vulnerable people, including children and adults. Much of the material is summarised or adapted from House of Bishops documents, which are referenced throughout and can be consulted for more detailed information. Downloadable forms, letters etc. are provided by the Diocese of Ely at: <http://www.elydiocese.org/sa/introduction-to-the-policy-and-procedures/>

The whole document is provided on-line to save costs and to allow for immediate updates. Safeguarding is often subject to changes in legislation, policy and practice.

Adopted by the PCC of St James' Church Hemingford Grey
Signed by Churchwardens and Incumbent, December 2012
Updated Sept 2016
Updated Sept 2017

