

Child Protection Policy

Information for Parents

In January 2022 the PCC of Whipton St. Boniface (w. Holy Trinity Beacon Heath) reviewed the church's child protection policy which follows the Exeter Diocese Child Protection Guidelines:

Church of England Child Protection Policy

The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will champion the protection of children and young people both in society as a whole and in its own community.

It fully accepts, endorses and will implement the principle enshrined in the Children Act 1989 that the welfare of the child is paramount. The Church of England will foster and encourage best practice within its community by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents in the care of their children. It will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. It is committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory bodies when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

House of Bishops Child Protection Policy (Promoting a Safer Church 2017)

Child Protection at St Boniface and Holy Trinity Churches

The guidelines aim to check the background, experience and suitability of all volunteers and workers to ensure that children and young people are safe from physical, emotional and sexual harm. It is also important that volunteers and workers are protected from situations that could be seen as compromising.

1. The PCC has appointed a Safeguarding Representative to ensure the wellbeing and safety of children and young people within the church and church activities.
2. The Safeguarding representative is responsible for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) applications and people with relevant experience in child protection.
3. Great care is taken to ensure the suitability of all church employees and volunteers who work with children. Employees are required to provide a reference. Both employees and volunteers are required to undertake an enhanced disclosure through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
4. At least two adults are present in all activities and the adult to child ratio is suitable for the safety and good organisation of the groups.
5. Careful consideration is given to Health and Safety by responsible adults in the following areas:
 - a. Risk assessment of premises and activities

- b. Fire safety
 - c. First aid
 - d. Transport
 - e. Hygiene
 - f. Insurance
6. Any accidents will be reported to parents/carers.
 7. All parents, carers, workers and volunteers must report any incidents about which they feel concerned for the safety of children to the Child Protection Representative. If appropriate this information will be shared with the relevant statutory authorities and others as necessary.
 8. All children will be treated with dignity and respect and there will be no favouritism.
 9. Parents/carers of teenagers should be aware that notification of meetings and activities is often carried out by text message, e-mail or Facebook. Youth workers will ensure that other means of communication are available if requested. Children under 13 will not be communicated with electronically. The PCC is satisfied that the youth workers have reasonable guidelines that should safeguard young people in relation to church activities. However, parents and carers are reminded that they should educate children and teenagers in safety precautions when using electronic methods of communication.
 10. We hope that all children will enjoy church activities in a safe and caring Christian environment. If you have any concerns please speak to the Vicar, Youth Work Co-Ordinator or Safeguarding Representative as appropriate.
 11. This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it is fit for purpose.

Contacts And useful Phone numbers:

Priest in Charge	- Carl Robinson	carl@whipton.church
Safeguarding Rep	- David Henley	07874 147566
Child Protection advice	- David Henley	07874 147566
Social Services	- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	0345 155 1071
Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor	01392 345910 (24 hr line -0845 1204550)	
NSPCC Help Line	0800 8005000	
Child line	0800 1111	
Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)	0845 1204551	