

The United Benefice of Hunsdon with Widford and Wareside
Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

Policy

Policy for the Safeguarding of Children

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 principles 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 body when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

The House of Bishops produced its first child protection policy document in 1995 in response to the Home Office's 1993 document "Safe from Harm". This was revised in 1999 and 2004. The latest policy, "Protecting All God's Children" was published in 2010.

In 2017, the National Safeguarding Team published a new policy statement, "Promoting a Safer Church", which sets out the Church's commitment for making the church a safer place for all.

The policy is in place to protect not only children and young people, but also those adults who are committed to working with and for them.

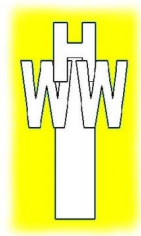
The Diocese of St Albans has adopted and fully supports this policy statement.

The Parochial Church Councils of Hunsdon, Widford and Wareside have adopted and fully support this policy statement.

This Policy and its Appendix to be reviewed annually.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Jane Mellors.

Contact details available locally or on church website.

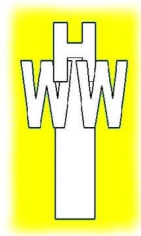


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Appendix: Child Protection Procedures

In order to safeguard children and young people in our care, these procedures will be followed:

1. The PCC will appoint an individual to be the Designated Person for Child Protection, hereinafter called the *Parish Safeguarding Officer*. This person will undertake appropriate training in child protection issues.
2. The PCC will also appoint annually a subcommittee responsible for issues of child protection constituted of at least the Parish Safeguarding Officer and two other church members of good standing. Ideally these other members will be from the parish, but they may be selected from the wider benefice. This *Child Protection Subcommittee* will keep up to date with changes in legislation and guidelines and report to the PCC when necessary (at least annually). It will also oversee children's work to ensure adherence to the policy.
3. The PCC, through the Parish Safeguarding Officer, accept and will abide by the attached procedures. Furthermore, in order to implement this policy, the PCC undertakes to allocate funding for work with children and young people in its annual budget.
4. All adults wishing to work with children in a voluntary or paid capacity will be required to satisfy Church of England guidelines for application. These include the necessity to apply for an enhanced DBS disclosure.
5. The PCC will supervise and care for any member of the church community known to have offended against a child.
6. A Register of Approved Children's Workers will be maintained and published at least annually.
7. All children's workers will be instructed about existing guidelines and the latest developments in Child Protection procedures by the PCC's appointed Parish Safeguarding Officer.
8. All children's workers will be encouraged to undertake training on a regular basis.
9. The PCC will authorise children's programmes and activities carried out on its behalf.
10. The PCC will ensure that there is adequate insurance cover for children, their leaders and 3rd parties.



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11. At least two approved children's workers will be present for any children's work activity.
12. All those working with children through Church activities will make sure that:
 - a. suspected cases of abuse or any actual disclosures by a child are reported immediately and directly to the Parish Safeguarding Officer
 - b. procedures are followed strictly
 - c. full cooperation is given to any statutory agencies
 - d. subsequent actions are left to the appropriate agencies and no further investigation will be taken by any member of the Church community.