

# Policy and Procedure for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

**Tower Hill**

**Bristol**

**BS2 0ET**

0117 929 3386

[stphilipandstjacob.com](http://stphilipandstjacob.com)

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Philip and St Jacob, Bristol is a registered charity, number 1132006



S t P H I L I P  
& S t J A C O B

*Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm. - Diocese of Bristol*

## Contents:

1. Policy Context
2. Policy statement
3. Who is a child, young person, adult who may be considered vulnerable for the purposes of safeguarding?
4. What is abuse and neglect?
5. What to do if you are concerned that abuse or neglect may be happening (Including allegations against people in a position of trust and are to those that may pose a risk)
  - 5a) New reporting expectations from the charity commission regarding serious incidents
  - 5/(b) Diocese of Bristol Guidance to PCC in light of Corona Virus
6. Confidentiality and Consent
7. Record Keeping
8. Safer Recruitment
9. Roles and Responsibilities
10. Other related policies
11. Procedure for risk assessing off-site events
12. Policy implementation and Review

## Appendix

1. Categories of Abuse
2. Some Additional Information
3. Annex of Safe Ratios
4. Registration
5. Online/ Hybrid Church guidance



S t P H I L I P  
& S t J A C O B

## 1) Policy Context

In developing this policy, the parish of St Philip and St Jacob with Emmanuel (Central) commits to following the safeguarding policies of the Church of England, safeguarding policy and guidance as issued by the Diocese of Bristol and commits to working within legislation and statutory guidance as related to the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Adults.

The main relevant policies and guidance documents are:

Church of England:

Protecting all God's Children, 2010

Promoting a Safer Church, 2006

Promoting a Safer Church - Policy Statement, 2017

Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment, 2016

Responding Well to Domestic Abuse 2017

Responding Well to those who have been Sexually Abused, 2011  
Responding to, assessing and managing safeguarding concerns or allegations against church officers, 2017

Roles and Responsibilities of Church Office Holders and Bodies, 2017

Responding to Safeguarding Concerns or Allegations that relate to Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults, 2018

Safer Environment and Activities, 2019

The Code of Safer Working Practice, 2019

Safeguarding Records Joint Practice Guidance, 2015

Safeguarding Records Retention Tool Kit, 2015

General Statement on Safeguarding Children in Towers, 2015

These documents can be found on the Church of England Website here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/promoting-safer-church/policy-practice-guidance>

Diocese of Bristol:

Safeguarding Policy

Allegations Management Procedure

Ministering to those who may present a risk

Safer recruitment Guidance and Toolkit

These documents can all be found on the Diocese of Bristol website:

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/aboutus/safeguarding/safeguardingresources/> And descriptions are given where these policies are referenced in this policy document.

Statutory Guidance:

Working Together 2018: This guidance from the Department of Education describes safeguarding processes and



S t P H I L I P  
& S t J A C O B

the safeguards that every organisation must have in place, including faith organisations. See the guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2016 This guidance from the Department of Health describes safeguarding processes for adults and the responsibilities of different organisations <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance#safeguarding-1>

## 2) Policy Statement

It is the responsibility of all members of Central to give paramount importance and consideration to the nurture and care of children, young people and vulnerable adults in a safe and secure environment. Everyone within the Central Church family has a role to play in safeguarding and this policy is intended to provide a framework within which we can work.

The Commission:

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)*

The work undertaken in the Church under the stewardship of the PCC aims to bring the people of Bristol to faith in Christ and to nurture them in that faith.

The PCC recognises that in order for this to happen safely and effectively, it is necessary to have and to implement a safeguarding policy which accords with guidelines issued by the Church of England and the Diocese of Bristol.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child, young person or vulnerable adult is paramount.
- Everyone has different levels of vulnerability and each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives
- All children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable (regardless of age, disability, gender, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse which can occur in all families and communities.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, vulnerable adults and their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.



S t P H I L I P  
& S t J A C O B

- Promoting a Safer Environment and culture the safeguarding and protection of children and adults at risk is the responsibility of everyone within a church community. The church community, including all its members, must be alert to risks and dangers and be prepared to report concerns and take action as and when necessary.
- In line with the House of Bishops policy Statement 'Promoting a Safer Church, 2017: Central is committed to:
  - ✓ Promoting a Safer Environment and culture where all members of the church family take responsibility for the implementation of the safeguarding, policy
  - ✓ Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to young people and adults within the church
  - ✓ Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
  - ✓ Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
  - ✓ Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
  - ✓ Responding to those that may present a risk to others <sup>1</sup>

We will develop a culture in our church that:

- Enables a safe and caring community to provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.
- Enables and encourages concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently and protects children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable from actual or potential harm.
- Ensures all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse.
- Values, listens to and respects children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable, encouraging them to be active contributors to the church community.
- Encourages adults who may be vulnerable to lead as independent a life as possible.

When concerns are raised we will:

- Respond without delay to every concern raised that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, or may be at risk of harm, through abuse or neglect.
- Work with police, local authority and other partners in any investigation, including where allegations are made against a member of the Church community.
- Challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

If abuse has occurred, we will ensure:

- Informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse, including support to make a complaint if so desired.
- Supervision is provided for any member of the Church Community known to pose a risk of harm to others.
- Appropriate pastoral care is provided to any member of our church against whom an allegation is made.

In all recruitment we will:

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/cofe-policy-statement.pdf](http://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/cofe-policy-statement.pdf)



S t P H I L I P  
& S t J A C O B

- Carefully select those with any responsibility within the Church (including voluntary workers) in line with the Church of England Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance 2016 (See Central Safer Recruitment Guidelines) and provide ongoing supervision, support and training.

In our publicity we will:

- Share information about good safeguarding practice with children, young people and vulnerable adults, their parents, carers and all those working and worshipping with them.
- Ensure that clear information is available regarding our safeguarding arrangements, including making a copy of this Policy available on our website along with other relevant information.



S t P H I L I P  
& S t J A C O B

3) Who is a child, young person, adult who may be considered to be vulnerable for the purposes of the safeguarding procedure?

**Children and young people:** for the purposes of this policy means anyone under the age of 18 years. Children and young people may be abused by an adult or child, male or female. It is far more common for a child or young person to be abused by a person known to them than by a stranger. This could be a parent, family member, friend, teacher, minister or anyone else. Children may be abused in person or via electronic media, they may experience harm as a result of seeing or hearing the abuse of others.

Where conflicts of interest arise between the welfare of the child and that of adults, the child's wellbeing must always be of paramount importance and priority.

**Adults who may be vulnerable:** The Care Act 2014 defines an adult to whom statutory safeguarding duties apply as an adult who:

***Has need of care and support (whether or not the Local Authority is meeting any of these needs).***

*As a result of these identified needs, a vulnerable person may be someone who is:*

- *experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect*
- *unable to protect themselves from either the risk of or the experience of abuse or neglect*
- *experiencing substantial difficulty in accessing the services available to support them*

**(Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2016)**

The definition may apply to anyone over the age of 18 who may not be able to protect themselves from abuse, harm or exploitation, which may be by reason of illness, physical, sensory or learning disability or impairment, mental illness, use of drugs or alcohol. It is important to recognise that Increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible.

An adult may be abused or neglected by family (including spouses, parents and children), friends, carers (paid and unpaid), strangers and professionals and members of the community. Those at risk may live alone or may live with family or in a care setting e.g. residential home.

4) What is abuse and neglect?

Please see the table attached as Appendix 2 This outlines the forms of abuse noted in legislation related to safeguarding children, young people and adults alongside some examples and potential indicators that abuse or neglect may be occurring.

5) What to do if you are concerned that abuse or neglect may be happening  
You may see or hear something of concern, or someone may tell you something of concern (a disclosure). If a child, young person or adult tells you that they have experienced abuse, are experiencing abuse or are concerned that they may be at risk:



S t P H I L I P  
& S t J A C O B

Do	Don't
Listen. Try to move to a quiet space if possible	Tell them to speak to someone else
Let the person talk at their own pace and say what they want to say. If you need to clarify points, ask open questions like: Tell me... what happened, Explain ... about the incident Describe ...where it was, what happened	Investigate. Ask leading questions e.g. why did they do that, was it 'name', did it hurt you?
Take it seriously	Try not to react as though unbelieving or shocked
Reassure. Confirm they are doing the right thing by telling you.	Tell them not to tell stories
Tell them you need to share the concern with the right people e.g. Parish Safeguarding Officer, police, social care	Promise to keep a secret or tell people who don't need to know.
Record what was said and the facts as accurately as possible as soon as possible	Try to just remember it
	Contact the person the allegation is about

**Whether a child, young person or adult has shared a concern with you, or you have seen or heard something of concern...**

**If the situation is urgent** i.e. there is an imminent risk of harm: contact the police on 101 or 999 as appropriate or contact the Local Authority Children or Adults safeguarding Teams:

**Bristol City Council Children' s Safeguarding Team**

Telephone numbers: East/Central 0117 9036500

South 1 0117 3532200

South 2 0117 9031414

North 0117 3538771

Out of hours/Weekends 01454 615165

**Bristol City Council Adult Safeguarding Team Telephone Numbers:**

Bristol Care Direct: Monday - Friday 8.30am - 5pm (0117) 922 2700

Telephone number - Out of hours/Weekends- contact the Emergency Duty Team on (01454) 615 165

For an on-line contact form go to: [www.bristol.gov.uk/caredirect](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/caredirect)





S t P H I L I P  
& S t J A C O B

For contact details of other local authorities within our area visit: <http://www.bristol.anglican.org/parish/resources/safeguarding/safeguarding-taking-action/>

Once you have sought advice from police or the Local Authority and the situation is made safe, inform the Parish Safeguarding Officer (as soon as possible of the concern and actions taken, provide a written record of this. If the concern is about the Parish Safeguarding Officer contact the Incumbent/ Churchwardens(Tim Browne / Karri Chandler) or Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (Adam Bond).

#### Useful Contacts:

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Email: [safeguarding@bristolcentral.com](mailto:safeguarding@bristolcentral.com)

Telephone: (contact via the Church Office): 0117 9293386 or out of hours :

Diocesan Safeguarding Team: For full information about who to contact, in what circumstances and how, about Safeguarding issues - [Click Here](#)

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Adam Bond

Safeguarding Administrator: Katheryn Caithness

Team Contact Details: Tel: 0117 9060100

Email: [safeguarding@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding@bristoldiocese.org)

Out of Hours: For any urgent out of hours concerns. Thirty- One Eight (formerly CCPAS helpline (0845 120 4550) CCPAS staff will advise on whether an issue should be reported to a Local Authority, Police or other agency and on immediate management of any concern.

Please note that out of hours use of this number is for urgent safeguarding concerns which cannot wait until the next working day only. When calling, please state that you are calling from a Church within the Diocese of Bristol. This will enable CCPAS to ensure that relevant information is passed to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser or to other Diocesan staff as required to support you. Further information about CCPAS is available at [www.ccpas.co.uk/provide/helpline](http://www.ccpas.co.uk/provide/helpline)

Police - Avon & Somerset Constabulary: 0845 4567000

The NSPCC - National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children: 0808 8005000

Child line - helpline for children: 0800 1111

**If the situation is of concern but is not urgent:** Contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer to report the concern and provide a written record (if the concern is about the Parish Safeguarding Officer contact the Incumbent/Churchwardens or Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser). They will decide with you whether to discuss with the child, their parents or carers or the adult and any carers and whether a referral to the Local Authority Children or Adults Safeguarding Team is needed or any other action.

Note: Anyone can report a concern directly to police or the Local Authority at any time.



S t P H I L I P  
& S t J A C O B

The Parish of St Phillip and St Jacob (Central) hopes that all will follow this policy but where there is any concern that an issue has not been reported and should be or any reluctance to inform the church of an incident Central wishes to make clear that the most important point is that those concerns are reported to the appropriate authority so that they can be acted upon where needed.

**If there is an allegation that a person in a position of trust (minister, PCC member, staff member or volunteer) has abused or neglected a child or adult or that such a person may present a risk to a child or adult:** The Diocese of Bristol 'Allegations Management Procedure' will be followed (copies of this procedure can be found on the Diocesan website and copies are held by the Parish Safeguarding Officers, Clergy and in the Parish Office). In brief this procedure requires that:

- The concern should be reported as above; report should reach police and Local Authority within 1 working day.
- The concern should not be made known to the person against whom the allegation is raised without agreement with police and or the Local Authority.
- Next steps will be decided in conjunction with police, Local Authority representatives (including Local Authority Designated Officer where there is a concern for the welfare of a child), the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and parish representatives (usually PSO, Incumbent and Churchwardens).

**If a person is identified who has a caution or conviction for abuse of children and or adults who may pose a risk to others:** (usually those with convictions for sexual or violent offences) the Diocese of Bristol guidance 'Ministering to those who may pose a risk' (Copies of this guidance can be found on the Diocesan website and copies are held by the Parish Safeguarding Officers, Clergy and in the Parish Office) will be followed. In brief this guidance advises that that Parish Safeguarding Officer and Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser are made aware and that the individual is informed that:

- To support their being part of the congregation as safely as possible, contact will be made with police, probation and other agencies connected with their case.
- The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and Church leaders will need to know of their circumstances.
- That a risk assessment will need to be completed
- And that a written agreement will be needed between the individual and the Church which agrees when the individual will or will not be involved in church services and activities, boundaries of behaviour and support offered.

## 5 a) Serious Incident Reporting Expectations from the Charity Commission

Following recent high-profile safeguarding-related incidents in the charity sector, the Charity Commission updated its guidance on Serious Incident Reporting in October 2018, with a particular focus on the reporting of Safeguarding Serious Incidents. The Church has worked with the Charity Commission to agree bespoke guidance for PCCs on how to identify and report a Serious Incident. The Charity Commission has confirmed that it expects ALL PCCs to report Serious Incidents, including 'excepted' PCCs which are not registered with the Charity

Commission as their annual income is under £100,000. For further details please see Central's separate policy for Serious incident reporting, approved by PCC in May 2019.

## 6) Confidentiality and Consent

**Confidentiality:** Central accepts the principle that only those with a need to know should be made aware of safeguarding concerns or other confidential information. All staff, ministers and volunteers are expected to share confidential information appropriately and to ensure that written records and verbal information is shared responsibly and stored securely.

**Consent:** Central accepts that all people have a right to make their own views and wishes known and that these wishes should be followed wherever possible.

**Children:** Where there is a concern that a child is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect, the child may ask those that know not to tell anyone. Central accepts that we cannot do this; these concerns must be reported to the appropriate authorities to enable the child or young person to receive appropriate help and support. Central asks all staff, ministers and volunteers to explain this to children in their care when appropriate. Where there is concern that a child is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, Central expects that parents and carers will be communicated with and will have their consent sought for information to be shared with the Local Authority or other agencies. This should happen except where there is concern that to do so would place a child at increased risk or where a parent or carer may be involved in the abuse of the child. In those circumstances, advice of the Local Authority or police should be sought before informing the parents or carers of the concern. Where the allegation is against an individual who may have access to other children or vulnerable adults the referral should be made without seeking consent from parents or carers. How and when they are subsequently made aware of the concerns will be decided alongside the relevant statutory agencies.

**Adults:** Adults have the right to make their own decisions about their lives. Consent should be sought from an adult before information is shared about them. Where an adult withholds consent for a safeguarding concern to be shared with statutory authorities (police and local authority), this should be accepted. The exceptions to this rule are:

- where there may be others at risk (e.g. the abuse or neglect is happening in a care home or hospital or the abuser has access to other vulnerable adults or children)
- where there is reason to doubt that the individual has the requisite mental capacity to make the decision to disclose; or
- where there is imminent risk of serious harm to the individual.

Advice should be sought from statutory services (Adult social care or police) or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser where there is any doubt as to whether a concern should be referred.

Considered approach to information sharing



S t P H I L I P  
& S t J A C O B

At Central we recognise that taking a measured approach to the amount of information we share and with whom, is vital. The main responsibility on someone receiving a disclosure is to make clear that whilst they are there to listen to the person making the disclosure, they cannot promise confidentiality or make judgements about who should and should not know about the disclosure depending on what they hear. Instead, if they can establish the person is in no immediate danger, they should inform the PSO who will then escalate it appropriately. If there is ever any doubt about who is appropriate to consult, then independent advice must be sought. This will vary on the circumstances. A full guidance flow chart on information sharing can be seen below.

[https://cofebristol.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2018/05/Flowchart\\_for\\_Information\\_Sharing\\_Colour\\_v1\\_01.pdf](https://cofebristol.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2018/05/Flowchart_for_Information_Sharing_Colour_v1_01.pdf)

## 7) Record Keeping

Records of all safeguarding concerns will be kept by the Parish Safeguarding Officers. They will keep a record of the initial concern and all actions taken. The records will be securely held. All those involved with any safeguarding concern must ensure that they provide to the Safeguarding Officer any records related to that case for secure storage.

Records will be retained as per Church of England guidance 'Safeguarding Records: Joint Practice Guidance for the Church of England and the Methodist Church' 2015 (Available on the Diocese of Bristol website).

Central does not have access to secure email systems. Therefore, great care should be taken where email is used to ensure that confidential information is not open to being accessed by unauthorised individuals. Individual's confidential information should not be communicated via email (e.g. any information should not make the individual identifiable by name, address etc.).

Records must be maintained of staff and volunteer training and DBS checks. These will be maintained by the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

## 8) Safer Recruitment and ongoing support and supervision

All recruitment of staff and volunteers will be undertaken in line with Church of England policy 'Safer Recruitment' 2015. See the Central Safer Recruitment Guidance for further information.

Recruitment of staff and volunteers will only be undertaken by those delegated such responsibility from PCC.

Recruitment of staff and volunteers will only be undertaken according to agreed process.

All recruited staff and volunteers will be made known to PCC.

No one who has not been safely recruited will be permitted to work unsupervised with children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable.

In brief: All staff and volunteers will:

- Have all recruitment checks completed and approved prior to starting in role.
- All eligible staff and volunteers will have a repeat DBS disclosure every 5 years. Any lapsed DBS check will require the post holder to stand down until the check has been completed.



S t P H I L I P  
& S t J A C O B

- Attend safeguarding training as required by the Church of England
- Attend any other training as decided by the PCC
- Have a named supervisor

## 9) Roles and Responsibilities

Name	Responsibilities
Parochial Church Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Agree, implement, monitor and review annually this safeguarding policy and all associated policies</li> <li>◦ Ensure all staff and volunteers are recruited safely</li> <li>◦ Agree and implement supporting good practice guidance and processes</li> <li>◦ Ensure adequate insurance for all activities</li> <li>◦ Recruit and support adequate Parish Safeguarding Officers</li> <li>◦ Ensure all staff and volunteers are adequately trained and supervised</li> </ul>
Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Respond to all safeguarding allegations and concerns according to policy and guidance</li> <li>◦ Monitor and report to PCC regarding adherence to policy and practice</li> <li>◦ Arrange safeguarding training and maintain records</li> <li>◦ Process DBS disclosures for the church and maintain records</li> </ul>
Incumbent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Act as a point of contact should there be any safeguarding allegation or concern regarding a PSO</li> </ul>
Church Wardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Take part in the allegations management procedure when required</li> <li>◦ Take part in an 'agreement' as per 'ministering to those that may present a risk'</li> </ul>
Activity Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Follow the Safeguarding policy and associated good practice guidance</li> <li>◦ Ensure that activities are run according to good practice guidance</li> <li>◦ Report any safeguarding concerns as per policy</li> <li>◦ Ensure all volunteers are safely recruited</li> <li>◦ Ensure all volunteers have in date training and DBS check as required</li> <li>◦ Ensure all new volunteers receive agreed induction</li> <li>◦ Supervise agreed volunteers</li> </ul>
Staff and Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Follow the safeguarding policy and associated good practice guidance</li> <li>◦ Report any safeguarding concern as per policy</li> </ul>
Church members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Be aware of the safeguarding and associated policies</li> <li>◦ Report any concerns as per policy</li> </ul>

## 10) Additional Related Policies

**Photographs and videos:** It is the policy of Central that no one should take photographs of children or young people without the written consent of that child's parent or carer and the consent of that child where they are old enough to give consent.

Where photographs are to be taken consent will be gained from parents and carers in advance, using the agreed form. This will stipulate who will take photos, for what purpose they may be used, how they will be stored and after what period they will be destroyed.

All photos and videos taken for Central should be stored securely on devices belonging to the PCC. No photo or video should be left stored on personal photography or videography equipment.

No photo will be taken, shared or used for any purpose which shows a child in any state of undress.

Children will not be named in publicity related to photographs or video.

Where an event may be photographed and is open to the public; signs will be displayed noting that photographs and or video may be taken and inviting anyone not wishing to be in any photos or video used to make this known to a named person. The photographer/ videographer will be named on these signs and will wear ID.

Only those delegated with that responsibility by PCC may ask for parental consent and arrange the taking of any photo or video.

**Communications and Social Media:** It is the policy of Central that no one employed on a paid or voluntary basis, serving as a PCC member or as a licenced minister will contact children or young people directly via social media, email, phone or text without the knowledge and consent of that child or young person's parent or carer.

Where such contact needs to be made (for example a text to advise of a change of time for an activity) the child's parent or carer will be asked for consent in advance and the parent or carer will be copied into that communication.

Very rarely contact may be made with a child or young person without the knowledge of the child's parents or carers (for example where there are serious safeguarding concerns for a child and it would increase the risk to the child to contact the parent). In this case the person making contact with the child must agree in advance with the Parish Safeguarding Officer that this is appropriate, a second adult should be copied into all communications e.g. Parish Safeguarding Officer or Incumbent and must keep a record of all communications and provide these to the Parish Safeguarding Officer for the case record.

Where a group wishes to have a social media account to publicise or communicate regarding their group or activity the following will apply:

- The account shall not be a personal account belonging to any group member or leader; it will be a separate group account.



S t P H I L I P  
& S t J A C O B

- More than one adult will be administrator for the account so that all content and messages can be seen by more than one adult.
- The administrators of the group must have the appropriate level of DBS check. (This should not affect current practice as it is anticipated that the majority of administrators will also be leaders and visa-versa).
- In the event that information comes from outside the group in relation to external events etc - the leaders/administrators shall be responsible for sharing the information on the closed group.
- All users will be made aware that bullying, harassment or other anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated. Information will be available to all users about how to raise a concern about the conduct of others and who with.
- Steps must be taken to prevent people outside the group having access to the names or personal details of anyone who is part of the group e.g. if a group Facebook page is used, the account settings should prevent group members being identified and any message sent to anyone other than the administrator.
- All those in a leadership role will ensure that their language is professional and appropriate e.g. not adding 'xx' to messages, not using nicknames that are not what the leader is called by everyone else, avoiding addressing others by endearments which would be ambiguous, such as 'love',

**Hire of Church Premises for non-Church events and activities (whether a fee is chargeable or not):**

Organisations and individual users meeting at Central will be expected to adhere to this safeguarding policy or where they work regularly with children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable, to have their own safeguarding policy.

Central is responsible for overseeing users and ensuring that that agreed hire process and forms are in use. This will include obtaining a copy of the hirers safeguarding policy where relevant and providing a copy of this policy.

## 11) Procedure for Risk assessing off-site events

Central recognises that in relation to the above the amended Diocesan Safeguarding Policy for 2018 states the following:

*The Diocese of Bristol accepts that it has responsibilities, through its workers, to take all reasonable steps to safeguard children and adults at risk when on church grounds, taking part in church led activities off site and when traveling between sites when organised by the Church. The Diocese of Bristol cannot be responsible for incidents or concerns arising outside of church or church led activities but will, nevertheless, endeavour to provide appropriate advice and to refer any concern raised to the appropriate authorities in order to ensure that the community as a whole is safeguarded appropriately.*

As such, Central's PCC Standing Committee undertake to carry out a comprehensive safeguarding risk assessment of events which the church proposes to send groups to.

This will include ensuring the following:



- That the specific consent of the parents or carers of the children or young people taking part is obtained for the event to go ahead
- That consideration is given to whether the leaders of the trip will be engaged in regulated activity in the course of the trip and if so, whether they should undergo a DBS check (if they have not done so already)

NB: Queries regarding eligibility should be directed to the PSO

- That the organisation organising the event has an appropriate level of liability insurance and/or a clear line of accountability to enable any safeguarding concerns to be dealt with appropriately
- That leaders of the trip are clear on the safeguarding alert procedure and that they have the relevant contact details to hand whilst off site.
- If the standing committee have concerns about any of the above, they should liaise with the PSO who will take advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer and/or CCPAS as appropriate.

## 12) Policy implementation and Review

All staff, volunteers and ministers are required to abide by this policy and associated good practice guidance.

This policy will be made available on the Church website; a copy will be available at church.

This policy will be monitored via annual audit and annual report to PCC

This policy is to be reviewed annually. It was last reviewed September 2022

Next Review Due: September 2023

# Appendix:

## 1) Categories of Abuse and Additional Information Categories, Definitions and Indicators of Harm Last Updated July 2015

A more extensive list of types of abuse and relevant indicators can be found [here](#):

Type of Harm	Definition	Examples	Indicators
Physical Adults and Children	Non-accidental harm to the body. From careless rough handling to direct physical violence. Unlawful or inappropriate use of restraint or physical interventions.	Hitting, slapping, pinching, shaking, pushing, scalding, burning, dragging, kicking, physical restraint, locking an individual in a room or a car.	History of unexplained falls or minor injuries, bruising which is characteristic of non-accidental injury – hand slap marks, pinch marks, grip marks, bite marks, scalds, flinching, reluctant to undress.
Sexual Adults and Children	Direct or indirect involvement in sexual activity without capacity and/or consent. Individual did not fully understand or was pressured into consenting.  Note: A child under 16 years old can never consent to any sexual act	Coercion to be involved in the making or watching of pornographic material. Coercion to touch e.g. of breasts, genitals, anus, mouth, masturbation of either self or others, penetration or attempted penetration of vagina, anus, mouth with or by penis, fingers and or other objects	Pregnancy in a women unable to give consent, difficulty in walking or sitting with no apparent explanation, torn, stained or bloody underclothes or bedding, Bleeding, bruising to the rectal and/or vaginal area, bruising. Behavioural changes, sexually explicit behaviour, explicit language, self-harm, obsession with washing, fear of pregnancy may be exaggerated
Type of Harm	Definition	Examples	Indicators
Emotional Adults and Children	Behaviour which has a harmful effect on an individual's emotional well- being or development, causing mental distress undermining their self-esteem and affecting individual's quality of life. Wilful infliction of mental suffering by a person in a position of trust and power.	Shouting, coercion, bullying, blaming, insulting, ignoring, threats of harm or abandonment, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, depriving an individual of the right to make choices and their privacy, dignity, self-expression, deprivation of contact, undermining self-esteem, isolation and over-dependence. Failure to provide a loving environment for a child.	Loss of interest, withdrawn, anxious or depressed, frightened, avoiding eye contact, irritable, aggressive or challenging behaviour, unexplained sleep disturbance, self-harm, refusing to eat, deliberate soiling, unusual weight gain or loss
Neglect Adults and Children	Failure of any person who has responsibility for the charge, care or custody of an adult at risk or child to provide the amount and type of care or treatment that a responsible person could	Fail to meet basic needs including food, environment, access to health care and education, failure to provide for social needs.	Unwashed/ dirty appearance, clothes too small/big, untreated sores or infections, isolation.

	be expected to provide.		
Financial Adults	The unauthorised taking (theft), deprivation or misuse of any money, income, assets, funds, personal belongings or property or any resources of an adult at risk without their informed consent or authorisation.	Misuse of power of attorney or appointee-ship. Money and possessions stolen, misuse or misappropriating money, valuables or property, possessions or benefits, undue pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, denying the adult at risk the right to access funds, unauthorised disposal of property or possessions, being asked to part with money on false pretences,	Unexplained or sudden inability to pay bills, Power of Attorney obtained and misused when a person lacks or does not lack mental capacity to understand, unexplained withdrawal of money with no benefits, person lacking goods or services that they can afford, extortionate demands for payments for services
Organisational Adults	Involves the collective failure of an organisation to provide safe, appropriate and acceptable standards of service to adults at risk.  Mainly relates to health and social care provision but aspects may be relevant to Church settings	Lack of individualised care, inappropriate confinement or restriction, sensory deprivation, inappropriate use of rules, custom and practice	Whistle blowing policy not in place and accessible, insufficient employees training and development. Organisational standards not meeting those laid down by regulatory bodies, service users not treated with dignity and respect, diverse needs not recognized and valued in terms of age, gender, disability, ethnic origin, race or sexual orientation, services not flexible
Discriminatory Adults	Exists when values, beliefs or culture result in a misuse of power that denies opportunity to some groups or individuals.	Verbal abuse, harassment or similar treatment, unequal treatment, deliberate exclusion from services such as education, health, justice and access to services and protection, harmful or derisive attitudes, inappropriate use of language	Repeated exclusion from rights afforded to citizens such as health, education, employment and criminal justice
Type of Harm	Definition	Examples	Indicators
Modern Slavery	Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to	Adult or Child trafficked into UK or between places in UK for purpose of sexual abuse or labour. Adult or Child forced to work as domestic servant.	Individual may not have their passport or Identity documents. They may not have access to or contact with friends and family. May never be left alone, live in poor conditions, not be able to



	coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.	Adult or child forced to work as sex worker, farm labourer, car cleaner.	leave of own free will. May have no access to funds. May not know where they are or who they are with.
Self-Neglect	A wide range of behaviour involving neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.	May not react to or appropriately fulfil needs for health care, food, warmth. May live in an environment that is an environmental or fire risk and not take any measure to reduce risk or inadequate measures.	Environment which is poorly maintained, dirty, animal infested, cramped to the degree that it places the individuals wellbeing at risk. May have untreated or inadequately treated physical health issues.
Domestic Abuse	In 2013, the Home Office announced changes to the definition of domestic abuse: Incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse by someone who is or has been an intimate partner or family member regardless of gender or sexuality. Age range 16+	Includes: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence; Female Genital Mutilation; forced marriage.	Appears to be afraid of partner / of making own choices, behaves as though she/he deserves to be hurt or mistreated, low self-esteem or appear to be withdrawn, appears unable or unwilling to leave perpetrator, makes excuses for or condones the behaviour of the person alleged to have caused harm, blames abuse on themselves
Spiritual Abuse	Inappropriate use of religious belief or practice	The misuse of the authority of leadership or penitential discipline, oppressive teaching or intrusive healing or deliverance ministries which may result in various types of harm.	Could be any of the above.

## 2) Some Additional Information:

**Child Sexual Exploitation:** All children and young people can be at risk of sexual exploitation. This includes boys and girls of any age. This is a form of sexual abuse. Whilst young people can give consent to sexual acts from the age of 16 (so long as they have the mental capacity to do so) they continue to be a risk of sexual exploitation beyond their 16th birthday. Any concern that a child or young person may be at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation must be reported immediately to Children's Social Care or the police. Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example, being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

**Female Genital Mutilation:** Female genital mutilation (sometimes referred to as female circumcision) refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal in the UK. It has been estimated that over 20,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the UK each year, and that 66,000 women in the UK are living with the consequences of FGM. However, the true extent is unknown, due to the "hidden" nature of the crime. The girls may be taken to their countries of origin so that FGM can be carried out during the summer holidays, allowing them time to "heal" before they return to school. There are also worries that some girls may have FGM performed in the UK. Any concern that a child or adult who may be vulnerable may be at risk of FGM must be reported immediately to the relevant Local Authority or directly to police.

**Terrorism and Extremism:** Any person may become drawn into extremism or sympathy with such views and into terrorism. This will often happen through contacts made via the internet but a culture that supports this can develop in any community, group, school or faith organisation. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places duties on certain bodies, not including Faith Organisations (excepting where such an organisation runs a school or other relevant premises) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Everybody should be alert to any indication that a person or group may be developing or has developed an interest or ideology that may include harm to others. Any concern related to this whether for a child or adult must be reported to the police without delay.

Document Control Information		
Document Issued by	Leanne Smith	Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Document Issued Date	July 2014	
Review Frequency	Annual	
Last Review	September 2021	
Changes at Last Review	Online and Hybrid church guidance	
Next Review Due	September 2022	

### 3) Annex of Safe Ratios for Children's and Youth work at Central

In accordance with Church of England policy document; 'Protecting All God's Children', Central adopts the guidance set out by Ofsted in relation to safe ratios of adult volunteers to children and young people, during organised activities. It should be noted that the ratios listed below represent the minimum standard:

Age of child	Ratio (Adults to children)
0-2	1:3
2-3	1:4
3-8	1:8
8+	1:8 for the first 8 children and 1 extra person for every extra 12 children

**NB:** Whilst the above represents good practice, the absolute minimum number of volunteers required in order to carry out an activity safely is 2 individuals who have been recruited in accordance with the safer recruitment policy. If there is ever a concern that there would be fewer than 2 members of staff/ volunteers available to run an activity, this should be reported to the safeguarding team as soon as possible to enable contingency plans to be put in place.

### 4) Registration

A register of attendees at each of the Sunday club activities shall be taken each week. We would ask that individual

Sunday club leaders would please ensure that the attendance information is recorded and fed back to the Sunday club coordinator so that it can be centrally recorded on the Church Suite App system.

5) Online/ Hybrid Church Guidance

Central is committed to ensuring that we employ best practice in safeguarding in the online environment. Please see the online church safeguarding best practice guidance below for further details.

**Policies and guidance: Bristol Guidance on Video conferencing with children and Youth**

[Diocese of Bristol | Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) - Safeguarding Guidance and information \(anglican.org\)](#)

[Video Calling.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](#)

**Sample policy referenced in Bristol Policy from Diocese of Worcester**  
[1585854356.pdf \(d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](#)