



St John's Church

Mexborough

Safeguarding

A Policy Statement for St John's Mexborough

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As Christians we are concerned with the care of all individuals. We seek to safeguard all members of our community. It is the responsibility of each one of us to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from physical, sexual or emotional abuse. It is the duty of all people working with children, young people and vulnerable adults to prevent abuse and to report any abuse, discovered or suspected.

Aims

Our aims are to

- (1) help young people in their Christian discipleship through a programme of learning and thereby deepen their Christian faith
- (2) enable young people to experience the love of God
- (3) encourage a strong Christian fellowship
- (4) encourage young people to play a full part in the Church's life and worship
- (5) provide a safe meeting place for young people and vulnerable adults
- (6) provide indoor and outdoor leisure activities for young people
- (7) promote equality of opportunity for all.

This document aims to cover the work of St John's Mexborough with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

There will be available for all groups involving children, young people and vulnerable adults the following

- (1) this document
- (2) a list of all relevant contacts and their telephone numbers
- (3) a list of signs which may indicate some kind of abuse
- (4) a list of do's and don'ts if there is a disclosure.

This document covers the work of this parish with children and young people, in its services and in the groups meeting throughout the week.

Currently these groups are:

- Tots and Toddlers (0-4 years Tuesday 9:30-11am)
- Family Service (Last Sunday of the month) All ages, 4pm – 5.30pm

This policy also covers any work undertaken outside of the church buildings carried out under the auspices of the P.C.C.

Application of the Policy

All new workers, whether paid or voluntary, working for church-based organisations, will be informed of the policy by the Vicar, the Safeguarding Children representative or the group leader. All children's workers will be expected to accept the policy and guidelines and work according to their requirements.

All new members of the P.C.C. will be required to accept the policy and guidelines.

Church Premises

Any organisation booking the use of church premises will be informed of the need to observe the Policy via a statement on the Booking Form. They should be expected to confirm they have a Safeguarding Children policy and appropriate insurance. Individuals booking church premises for private functions will have the policy drawn to their attention and accept their responsibility for protecting children at that function.

Insurance

We have insurance for the Children but permission of the PCC must be sought for activities of outside Church

Registration and Parental Consents

All groups will keep a register of those attending each session. Parental consent forms, including emergency contact details, must be completed for all participants, and must be available to group leaders whenever the group meets. This applies to all groups, whether meeting on church premises or elsewhere.

Parental consent to photographs and videos must be obtained, using the consent form and principles in the diocesan guidelines.

Premises – Fire Regulations

Children, young people and vulnerable adults must be kept safe at all times both on and off the premises. Leaders will be aware of fire regulations, the position of fire extinguishers and have access to a telephone at all times.

First Aid

Each group will have at least one adult present (or in Church on Sunday mornings) who has attended a basic first aid course. There will also be a properly equipped first aid kit available both on and off the premises for all groups.

Parental Consent

Consent forms, completed by parents/guardians, will be obtained for all visits where parents/guardians are not present.

Visits

For all children who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian you will need a parental consent form for the particular activity, make sure your car insurance is valid for transporting them and that you have the correct car seats. A risk assessment needs to be written.

Accidents

In the event of an accident, an accident and incident report form should be completed and kept in a marked file, in a secure place (the Church safe) and available for inspection. The appropriate people will be notified and action taken.

Risk Assessments

All activities will have a risk assessment. For activities on church premises the leader will consult the relevant generic risk assessment and amend as required, for other activities see Visits.

Church Premises

All non-Church groups using Church premises for activities, which involve children and young people, must give a copy of their policy statement on child protection to the PCC before they are allowed to rent the premises. These groups will also be given a copy of St Margaret's statement and a list of all relevant phone numbers.

The Voice of Children, Young People and vulnerable Adults – Abuse

The PCC follows the guidelines given by the diocese.

Should there be a disclosure about abuse the adult should follow the guidelines and report the disclosure to the safeguarding officer. The safeguarding officer will then contact the diocese.

Should an abuser make a disclosure then this should be reported to the vicar.

In each case the adult to whom the disclosure is made should explain that they have to report the information given to another person. In an emergency or if the child is at immediate risk the appropriate statutory agencies will be informed. All such concerns or incidents should be recorded and kept in a confidential place. See Appendix 4

Suitability of Staff and Volunteers to Work With Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

The PCC is responsible for all the work carried out on their behalf. When new leaders are appointed we will consider the following factors:

- (1) previous experience
- (2) a willingness to undertake training if they have no experience in a relevant field
- (3) a respect for the background and culture of the children in their care
- (4) no previous convictions relating to child abuse.

Their appointment will be confirmed subject to a satisfactory Disclosure from the DBS. (See separate policy document on the use of the DBS)

Review and Evaluation of Work

This will take place each year the first meeting after the AGM

Training

All adults who work with children and vulnerable adults will undertake safeguarding training given by the diocese.

St John's will have peer training and support for all leaders especially new volunteers. New leaders will be paired with an experienced leader.