



## St Thomas' Church, Kilnhurst Safeguarding Policy for Youth and Children's Work

This statement was adopted by St Thomas' Kilnhurst at a Parochial Church Council meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024. This policy will be reviewed each year.

### Statement of Aims in Safeguarding

Our aims are:

- To offer young people opportunities to engage with, think and learn about the Christian faith in different contexts.
- To encourage a strong Christian fellowship
- Help young people realise their full potential physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.
- To encourage young people to take a full part in the Church's life and worship.
- To provide a safe meeting place for young people
- To encourage young people to become responsible adults.
- To provide indoor and outdoor leisure activities for young people that are safe, and risk assessed.
- To uphold everyone's equality in the sight of God.

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

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

### Policy Statement

This PCC adopts the policy statement of the Diocese and will display it prominently in all church premises. The PCC expects all church workers to follow its Safeguarding Children Policy and will display it in a prominent place. Special measures are in place regarding 1-to-1 Bible Studies.

### What to do if you receive an allegation of, or suspect abuse of any kind

If you suspect, or any allegation is made to you (by a child or an adult), that some form of abuse has taken place (whether in the context of a St Thomas' activity or elsewhere), please contact one of the 'responsible persons' listed below as soon as possible. In normal circumstances those nearer the top of the list should be approached first. However, if one or more of the individuals is implicated in the suspicion or allegation, please contact one of the other 'responsible persons'. If all are implicated, you will need to contact a responsible external agency (e.g., Diocese of Sheffield Safeguarding Office, Social Services, NSPCC).

#### St Thomas Church:

Parish Safeguarding  
Officer

Anne McCormick

#### Tel No:

07717 949589

#### Email:

[safeguarding@kilnhurst-st-thomas.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@kilnhurst-st-thomas.org.uk)

The Minister

#### Sheffield Diocese:

Diocesan  
Safeguarding Adviser

Sian Checkley

07741 013 775

[sian.checkley@sheffield.anglican.org](mailto:sian.checkley@sheffield.anglican.org)

Assistant Safeguarding Adviser      Elina Penttila      07871 796 682      elina.penttila@sheffield.anglican.org

The action the 'responsible person' will take depends on the exact nature of the suspicion or allegation. In all cases they will:

- Ascertain from you the precise details of the allegation or suspicion (they may ask you to fill out an 'incident report' form)
- Inform other 'responsible persons' if necessary and appropriate.
- Keep a written record of information collected and decisions made using the 'incident report' form.

In addition, they will take the following action:

*In the case of a suspicion or allegation of sexual abuse:*

- Limit their investigation to clarifying specific details.
- Refer it to the Incumbent and/or Parish Safeguarding Officer and the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.
- If it is urgent contact the Social Services Duty Worker, Police Child Protection Team or Sheffield Diocesan Safeguarding Officer for advice ensure that you then inform the Incumbent and the Parish Safeguarding Officer that this has been done.

*In the case of a suspicion or allegation of other serious forms of abuse:*

- Contact the Social Services Duty Worker, Police Child Protection Team or Sheffield Diocesan Safeguarding Officer for advice on the appropriate action to take.

*In the case of physical assault:*

- Ensure that medical attention has been received.
- Ensure that the police have been alerted.

If, at any stage, you feel that the child is in imminent danger, you should contact the police or Social Services immediately.

**If you are not satisfied with the action that has been taken, then you retain a responsibility as a member of the public to report serious matters to the Social Services Department and should do so without hesitation.**

## **What are abuse and neglect?**

### **Abuse**

Abuse involves potentially or actually causing harm to a child. It can take a number of forms,

### **Neglect**

Neglect involves a persistent failure to meet a child's basic needs. This includes failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, or appropriate medical care. It also includes failure to take reasonable steps to protect a child from potential or actual harm.

## **What signs are there of abuse?**

Abuse and neglect of children can be difficult to spot. However, any of the following observations may be a sign of abuse or neglect. However, in many cases, there will be another explanation.

### **General Indicators / Indicators of Emotional Abuse**

In general, **changes** in a child's behaviour or mood, either suddenly or over a period of time, may be significant. Such changes may be particularly important where a child becomes more **withdrawn** or more **aggressive**.

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Dr Simon Langmead, Churchwarden .....

Mr Colin Proudman, Churchwarden .....

Date .....