

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

St Mary Magdalene, Ashton on Mersey

The following statement was agreed by the PCC on 27th November 2023

This place of worship is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being.

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of children and vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of children and vulnerable adults and will ensure all our policies and procedures will reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children and vulnerable adults.
- We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.

We are committed to:

- Following the statutory denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults and will ensure that as a place of worship all workers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy.
- Implementing the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005 and all other relevant legislation.
- Supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
- Ensuring that we are keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Ensuring that all in St Mary Magdalene's Church agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this place of worship/organisation.

We recognise that:

- Children's Social Services has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a vulnerable adult.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The PCC have adopted the House of Bishop's 'Parish Safeguarding Handbook', 'Safer Environment and Activities', and 'Safer Recruitment' guidance documents to inform and guide our practice.

We will review this policy annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for this place of worship:

Maureen Cain, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Yorke Menzies / Claire Nathan, Deputy Safeguarding Officers

Signed _____

Date: _____