

# Policy on the Safeguarding of Adults and Children in the Church



This statement was adopted by Macclesfield St. Paul Parish (1510) at a Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meeting held on Tuesday 10th October 2017.

We are committed to ensuring that everyone who attends our church services, parish events or social activities is able to enjoy them free from risk of harm. We aim to foster positive relationships based on trust and care for each other. We recognize however that children and some adults may have particular vulnerabilities and be more 'at risk' than others, and may need particular care and consideration.

A person may be vulnerable to harm for many different reasons, for example due to physical disability, mental health problems, or age, which may put them at extra risk of abuse in certain circumstances. This document refers to any such adult as being 'at risk'.

1. Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone. If you see or hear anything which gives you cause for concern for another person's safety, do not assume that someone else is dealing with the matter. Report your concerns to the St. Paul's Safeguarding Officer (SGO).
2. We recognize that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as 'at risk' at some time in our lives. If you feel that you have become 'at risk' please speak in confidence to the SGO.
3. We commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults and children to whom we minister.
4. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of anyone who may be 'at risk', ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
5. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
6. We commit ourselves to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of any person 'at risk'.
7. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial or spiritual abuse of children and adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect immediately.
8. All such concerns should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer, or to a Churchwarden or to the Vicar. In serious cases where a crime may have been committed or may potentially be committed ring Cheshire Police on 101.
9. Any report will be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. The person who receives the report will consult with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer concerning reference to appropriate external agencies.
10. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children and adults 'at risk'.
11. We are committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst children and adults 'at risk'.
12. This parish adopts the Safeguarding guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.
13. Everyone in this parish working with children and adults 'at risk' will agree to abide by this policy and any supplementary guidelines adopted by the PCC.

Safeguarding Officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Harris

Churchwardens: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jean Bennett

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Matthew Cooper