

PARISH OF HIGHFIELD CHURCH

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The following policy statement was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 24th March 2025.

This Parochial Church Council has adopted the Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance. In particular our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safe environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable 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 pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:


- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager (DSM) and/or statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Following advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager, support and manage the safe involvement of any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually (including a general risk assessment for standard activities and a tailored one for offsite activities or specific large events).
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy; the Church of England safeguarding policies and practice guidance; and the procedures/guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Rachele Newman as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: Mike Archer

Churchwardens: Phil Hewitt and Rebecca Proctor

Signed on behalf of PCC  (Incumbent)

Date 24.3.2025

Version; date	Updated by:	Comments/changes
v0.1 on 07.06.21	Jude Atcherley, Parish Safeguarding Officer	Policy created
v1.0 on 14.7.22	Mike Archer, Priest in Charge and Kelly Worthington, Operations Director	Details for risk assessments included
V1.1 on 22.8.23	Mike Archer, Vicar and Kelly Worthington, Executive Pastor	Reviewed and no changes made
V1.2 on 16.3.25	Rachele Newman, Parish Safeguarding Officer	Amended name of PSO and names of Wardens