



St John's Parish Church

New Alresford, Hampshire



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Parochial Church Councils of the Arle Valley Benefice are committed to:

1. The safeguarding, care and nurture of children and young persons within our church community;
2. The careful selection and training of volunteers and paid workers using the Disclosure and Barring Service, amongst other tools, to check the background of those who work with children and young persons in the Benefice;
3. Responding without delay to every complaint made that a child or young person may be or may have been harmed;
4. Full cooperation with statutory agencies during any investigation into allegations concerning abuse of a child or young person in the church community;
5. Providing informed pastoral care to anyone who has suffered abuse;
6. The management and supervision of any member of the church community known or thought to pose a threat to children or young persons.

In order to meet those objectives, the Rector and the Parochial Church Councils:

1. Recognise that the welfare of children and young persons is paramount and that they have a duty to take reasonable care for the wellbeing of all children and young persons in the church community when in their charge;
2. Have appointed a Safeguarding Officer, and a Safeguarding Coordinator, to assist in the implementation of the policy by in particular (a) endeavouring to ensure that all the procedures set out in the House of Bishops' Policy on Child Protection and in related diocesan guidance are followed, (b) ensuring that any concerns about a child or young person or the behaviour of an adult are appropriately reported both to the statutory agencies and to the Diocesan Child Protection Adviser, and (c) acting as children's advocates, unless others are appointed;
3. Arrange that those who work with children and young persons in the Benefice have been appropriately appointed, trained and are being appropriately supported and supervised;
4. Have adopted the Code of Conduct annexed hereto;
5. Endeavour to create a culture of informed vigilance so that the welfare of children and young persons will be taken seriously by all adults in the church community, and any concerns and allegations are shared with a Safeguarding Officer;
6. Undertake to provide appropriate pastoral care for children, young persons and adults who are, or have been, exposed to abuse, and their families;
7. Provide appropriate insurance cover for activities involving children and young persons in the Benefice;
8. Undertake to keep this Child Protection Policy under annual review.

Sarah Wilding (safeguarding@arlevalleychurches.org.uk) is appointed by the Benefice Parochial Church Councils to act as their officer to represent the concerns and views of children and young people at its meetings and to third parties and to prepare the report to the Parochial Church Council Meetings set out above.

This Child Protection Policy has been approved by the Rev'd Heather Brearey and PCCs and will be adopted by each Benefice Parochial Church Council by 31st May 2025.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Every adult in our church community is expected:

- (1) To take all children and young persons seriously, and treat them with dignity;
- (2) To be mindful at all times of the Church's duty to safeguard children and young persons;
- (3) To inform a Child Protection Officer promptly of any concern which he or she has about the welfare of any child or young person within our church community.

In respect of any activities undertaken or promoted by the Church involving children or young persons, the following have the additional responsibilities set out below:

Those working with children and young people:

- (4) Never to forget that the welfare of children and young persons is of paramount importance;
- (5) To act always in a professional manner;
- (6) Not to permit any bullying or discrimination;
- (7) To liaise openly with parents, guardians and carers;
- (8) To use physical contact only when absolutely necessary, and, in that event, to inform the Benefice Child Protection Coordinator;
- (9) To avoid being alone with children and young persons;
- (10) To attend appropriate child protection training;

Those organising any such activities:

- (12) To inform the Benefice Child Protection Coordinator of any such proposed activity;
- (13) To arrange supervision as agreed with the Benefice Child Protection Coordinator;
- (14) To manage situations where a child or young person is likely to be left alone with an adult;
- (15) To take appropriate steps where non-compliance with the code of conduct has occurred.