

Owlsmoor, St George
Parish Safeguarding Policy
based on the Diocesan Model (revised October 2014)
as amended by the PCC

The following policy was agreed at the PCC meeting held on 11 September 2017

1. We are committed to:
 - The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults with whom we have contact
 - The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
 - The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.
2. We will carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records checks.
3. We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that any adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation and we will follow a clear reporting procedure in place.
4. We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him or her and appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and/or isolation.
5. We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
6. We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
7. In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.
8. We are mindful of the duty placed upon us by section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.
9. We have a copy of "Promoting a Safer Church" setting out the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults, and all Church Officers have access to the Policy Commitments stated in it.
10. We will advise the Diocese which Registered Body we use to process applications for Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records checks. From today's date Access Personal Checking services Ltd (APCS) www.criminalrecordchecks.co.uk).

11. We will advise the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser if we receive a Disclosure which is 'blemished' or 'positive'.

12. We will review this policy annually, check that our policies are up to date, and supply a copy of the updated policy statement to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

Our Safeguarding Officer is:

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