

St Benedict's Church, Bennett's End, in the Benefice of Langelei Safeguarding Policy

The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will champion the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults both in society as a whole and in its own community. It fully accepts, endorses and will implement the principles enshrined in The Children Act 1989 that the welfare of the child is paramount. The Church of England will foster and encourage best practice within its community by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents in the care of their children. It will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well being of children and young people. It is committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory body when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

Clergy and laity who work with children within the Church, in a paid or voluntary capacity, need to operate within a framework of good policy and practice. This will then ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults alike are safeguarded and their welfare is protected.

St Benedict's Parochial Church Council (PCC) have agreed the following policy on Safeguarding Children, and this policy will be reviewed annually.

- to endorse the principles of the Children Act 1989 and all subsequent legislation. (This includes the Children Act 2004, the Government Green paper 'Every Child Matters' and Hertfordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) guidance).
- to ensure conformity with the Church of England policy on child protection as detailed in the Diocese of St Albans child protection guidance document and in line with thirtyone:eight (31:8) guidance.
- to ensure safe recruitment procedures are followed including obtaining Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and maintaining self declaration forms for those who are employed or working as a volunteer, who may come into regular and direct contact with children during their work or activities, or who have a duty of care or responsibility for children.
- to maintain a register of all people who have undergone suitability checks and have been authorised by the named child protection co-ordinator, clergy and church wardens.
- to ensure all leaders and helpers will be given guidelines relevant to safeguarding children and child protection issues including responding appropriately to concerns.
- to maintain current information and consent forms for all children who are involved in any organised out of church activities.
- to authorise all children's and youth programmes and activities carried out on behalf of the PCC.
- to ensure one to one situations are avoided with at least two adults present supervising children and these adults should be DBS cleared at enhanced level.

All the above tasks are to be carried out on behalf of St Benedict's Church PCC by the named child protection officers and will be supported by the church wardens.

Parish Safeguarding Officers:	Susan Rivett	07908 644600
Team Vicar:	Richard Howlett	01442 767738
Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser:	Jeremy Hirst	01727 818107 or 07867 350886
	safeguarding@stalbens.anglican.org	

Any of the above can be contacted if abuse is suspected or disclosed or any concerns are raised.

Policy reviewed and agreed: 13th May 2020

Signed for and on behalf of St Benedict's Parochial Church Council

Incumbent

Churchwardens