



Policy for Safeguarding Children

We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- are youth-friendly and child-friendly and nurture their positive development
- enable children and young people to be active contributors to the church community
- protect children and young people from actual or potential harm
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child or young person is paramount
- all children (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- abuse of children can occur in all communities and is most likely to occur within families and by people known to the child
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will endeavour to safeguard children and young people in all our activities by:

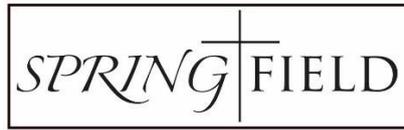
- valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people
- fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with children and young people, in co-operation with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities.

In our recruitment of paid staff and volunteers we will follow Diocesan procedures by:

- ensuring all necessary checks are made to promote the safe selection and recruitment of ordained and lay ministers, voluntary workers and paid workers with children and young people
- providing supervision, support and training.

In all our publicity we will:

- share information about good safeguarding practice with children, parents, and all those working with them.



When concerns are raised we will follow Diocesan procedures by:

- responding without delay to every concern raised that a **child** may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm, through abuse, harassment or bullying; or about the behaviour of an adult or child
- working with the diocese and the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In our care:

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse
- ensuring that appropriate pastoral care is offered to any member of our church community against whom an allegation is made.

In our supervision, we will follow Diocesan procedures by:

- ensuring, in partnership with the diocese and other agencies, that care and supervision is provided for any member of our church community known to have offended against a vulnerable adult, or to pose a risk to them.

Agreed at Springfield Church Council: 22 March 2021

Review date: March 2022