

# Holy Trinity Headington Quarry: Safeguarding Policy for Children and Young People

Key Personnel	Name (s)	Contact details
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Anne Tarassenko	annetarassenko@hotmail.com 07443 652082
Vicar	Vacancy till Sept. 2025	
Diocesan Head of Safeguarding	Louise Whitehead	07391 868478
Safeguarding Area Adviser for Oxford	Sophie Harrold	<a href="mailto:sophie.harrold@oxford.anglican.org">sophie.harrold@oxford.anglican.org</a> 07350 359809
Churchwardens	Margaret Taylor Linda Davies	wardens@hthq.uk wardens@hthq.uk
Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board	MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)	0345 050 7666 (in office hours)  Emergency Duty Team 0800 833408 (outside office hours)
ChildLine	For children and young people	0800 1111
NSPCC Helpline	For adults concerned about a child	0808 800 5000
Police		101 or in emergencies 999

## **Policy Statement**

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people.

We make every effort to provide a safe and welcoming environment underpinned by a culture of openness where both children and adults feel secure, able to talk and believe that they are being listened to.

We maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.

The purpose of this policy is to provide leaders and volunteers with the framework they need to keep children safe and secure, and to inform parents and guardians how we will safeguard their children whilst they are in our care.

## **Principles and Values**

All children have a right to feel secure.

All children have a right to be protected from harm.

All leaders and volunteers have a key role in prevention of harm and an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may indicate a child is at risk of harm, either in church or in the community.

We acknowledge that working in partnership with other agencies protects children and reduces risk and so we will engage in partnership working throughout the child protection process to safeguard children.

Whilst leaders and volunteers will work openly with parents as far as possible, the right is reserved to contact Children's Social Care or the police without notifying parents if this is believed to be in the child's best interests.

We will always act in the best interests of the child and ensure that our decisions around safeguarding take a child-centred and coordinated approach.

## **Record Keeping**

All information relating to a safeguarding concern or allegation should be recorded and reported to the Incumbent and the Parish Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible.

We will comply with all data protection legislation in the using and storage of safeguarding records.

## **Confidentiality and Information Sharing**

All leaders and volunteers must be aware that whilst they have duties to keep any information confidential, they also have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies to safeguard children.

All leaders and volunteers must be aware that they cannot promise a child they will keep secrets which might compromise the child's safety or wellbeing.

There is a lawful basis for child protection concerns to be shared with agencies who have a statutory duty for child protection.

## **Training**

All leaders and volunteers are required to undertake the safeguarding training offered by the Diocese, to the appropriate level. These safeguarding courses should be refreshed every three years.

## **Safeguarding Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

Holy Trinity will ensure that children with SEN and disabilities, especially those with communication difficulties, will be supported to ensure that their voice is heard and acted upon.

## **Reporting and referring concerns**

The prime concern at all stages must be the interests and safety of the child.

If a leader or volunteer suspects abuse, spots sign or indicators of abuse, or they have a disclosure of abuse made to them they must report as soon as possible to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, who will inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

If there are grounds to suspect a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, the PSO must contact Children's Social Care.

If a child is in immediate danger and urgent protective action is required, the police must be called. The PSO must then notify Children's Social Care.

## **Safer Recruitment**

Holy Trinity is committed to ensuring the development of a safe culture and that all steps are taken to recruit leaders and volunteers who are safe to work with children and young people.

The PCC is responsible for ensuring that the church follows safe recruitment processes.

The PCC will ensure that at least one of the people who conducts a recruitment interview has completed safer recruitment training.

We advise all leaders and volunteers to disclose any reason that may affect their suitability to work with children, including convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings.

## **Safeguarding Policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Parish Safeguarding Policy.

Signed on behalf of PCC: .....

Date: .....