

# Vine Church Wynyard Safeguarding Policy

*Each team member, both employees and volunteers, will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines. It is a condition of employment that team members will abide by this policy and failure to do so can result in disciplinary proceedings.*

## Purpose

The Leadership Team and Board of Trustees of Vine Church Wynyard recognise their responsibility to safeguarding as part of the church's call from God to care for people. The purpose of this policy is to promote a safe environment and culture for all.

## Our Commitments

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy, 'Promoting a Safer Church', the Leadership Team and Board of Trustees of Vine Church Wynyard are committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

## The church will:

- Strive to create and maintain environments that are safer for all, that promote well-being, that prevent abuse and that create nurturing, caring conditions for children, young people and vulnerable adults. This is the responsibility of all who work and volunteer in the church, and particularly those who have regular contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Have a named Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO) to work with the Leadership Team and the PCC to implement policy and procedures. Until they are appointed, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA), Beth Miller, will act as the Church Safeguarding Officer.
- Safely recruit those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults in accordance with the Church of England's Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance (2016).
- Train and support volunteers and employees to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse, adhere to safer working good practice and to challenge abuse of power. This will be done by arranging consistent and accessible safeguarding training. It will be a requirement of those who work or volunteer with these groups to undergo safeguarding training appropriate to the role they undertake.
- Display on the church website, and in any future church-owned premises, the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.

- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse, and take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the both the CSO and DSA and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons. The Leadership Team and Board of Trustees of Vine Church Wynyard, in exercising their responsibilities to suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations of abuse, will endeavour to respect the rights under criminal, civil and (where appropriate) ecclesiastical law of any accused. A legal presumption of innocence will be maintained during the statutory and (where appropriate) Church inquiry process.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties. This will be done, where appropriate, in conjunction with police, probation and the DSA, and aim to mitigate any identified risks according to a safeguarding agreement.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the church.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed regularly.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

## Contacts



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Notwithstanding the policy statement outlined above, anyone should feel able, if a child or vulnerable adult is under immediate risk, to contact either the police or local social services. Where possible consent should be given by the child's parents or the vulnerable adult, unless it is considered that seeking consent will increase the risk of harm.

**Police:** 101 or 999 if an emergency

**Social Services:** 01429 284284 or 01642 524552 (outside office hours)  
childrenshub@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk.

## Resources

Full copies of the Church of England, Diocese of Durham safeguarding policy and Safer Recruitment policy can be found online: <http://durhamdiocese.org/safeguarding-abuse-concerns/>