



**The Benefice of
St Peter and St Paul's Parish Church**

**Safeguarding Policy
April 2025**

Name of Place of Worship: **St Peter and St Paul's Church**

Address: **Hallgarth, Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 7BL**

Email Address of Parish Safeguarding Officer (Melissa Cook): [**pkgPSO@outlook.com**](mailto:pkgPSO@outlook.com)

Charity Number(s):* **1176138**

Insurance Company: **Ecclesiastical Insurance Group**

Our Commitment to Safeguarding

As the PCC of St Peter and St Paul's Church, Pickering, we recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults. We acknowledge that children, young people and vulnerable adults can be the victims of physical, financial, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect.

We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights, which states that everyone is entitled to "all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status". We also concur with the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that children should be able to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. They have a right to be protected from "all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person who has care of the child." We also accept the guidance laid out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013, and the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse 2020 and acknowledge that "safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility" and that "everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play."

As a PCC we have therefore adopted the procedures set out in this safeguarding policy in accordance with statutory guidance. We are committed to building constructive links with statutory and voluntary agencies involved in safeguarding.

The policy and appendices are based on the ten 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards published by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service CCPAS (now known as Thirtyone:eight) and have been prepared in line with the House of Bishops' 'Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance' and 'the commitment to Safeguarding by the Diocese of York and the House of Bishops 'Protecting All God's Children'.

The PCC undertakes to:

- endorse and follow all national and local safeguarding legislation and procedures, in addition to the international conventions outlined above.
- provide on-going safeguarding training for all its workers and will regularly review the operational guidelines attached.
- ensure that the premises meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and all other relevant legislation, and that it is welcoming and inclusive.
- support the Safeguarding Representative in her work and be prepared to take action in order to protect children and vulnerable adults.
- Encourage all members of the congregation and other Church groups to be aware of and support safeguarding within our Church. Safeguarding is everyone's business.
- file a copy of the policy and practice guidelines with the Diocese of York. Throughout this policy document, the **PCC refers to the body of individuals who are with overall responsibility for the church.**

PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS

Recognising and responding appropriately to an allegation or suspicion of abuse

UNDERSTANDING ABUSE & NEGLECT

Defining child abuse or abuse against a vulnerable adult is a difficult and complex issue. A person may abuse by inflicting harm or failing to prevent harm. Children and adults in need of protection may be abused within a family, an institution or a community setting. Very often the abuser is known or in a trusted relationship with the child or vulnerable adult.

In order to safeguard those in our places of worship and organisations we adhere to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and have as our starting point as a definition of abuse, Article 19 which states:

- 1. Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.*
- 2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.*

Article 19, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Also for adults the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights with particular reference to Article 5 which states:

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 5, UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Benefice of Church of St Peter and St Paul's in Pickering upholds the safeguarding responsibilities of the Church of England parishes as outlined in the 'House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance and the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, 'Promoting a Safer Church'.

Safeguarding Awareness

The PCC is committed to on-going safeguarding training and development opportunities for all workers, developing a culture of awareness of safeguarding issues to help protect **everyone**. All our workers will receive induction training and undertake appropriate safeguarding training on a regular basis, which will cover signs and symptoms of abuse and how to respond.

The PCC will also ensure that children and vulnerable adults are provided with information on where to get help and advice in relation to abuse, discrimination, bullying or any other matter where they have a concern.

RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Under no circumstances should a worker carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse. Follow procedures as below. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse should report concerns as soon as possible to:

Name: Melissa Cook

Position: Safeguarding Representative

Email: PkgPSO@outlook.com

who has been nominated by the PCC to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.

- In the absence of the Safeguarding Representative or, if the suspicions in any way involve the Safeguarding Representative, then the report should be made to:

Name: Pam Robb or Andrew Orland

Position: Church Wardens

Email: info@pickeringchurch.com

- **Emergency:** If you believe a child or adult is in immediate danger of significant or serious harm, contact the emergency services on 999
- **Non-emergency:** Contact the Parish Safeguarding Representative or wardens in the first instance. They **MUST** then contact the DSA (Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser). Any safeguarding concerns must be reported to the DSA **within 24 hours**
- Where the concern is about a child the Safeguarding Representative should also contact Children's Social Services 01609 780780

- Where the concern is about a vulnerable adult the Safeguarding Representative should also contact the local authority which is North Yorkshire Council on 03001312131, where the concern is about a child the Safeguarding Representative should also contact Children's Social Services 01609 780780
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place.
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Safeguarding Representative, the absence of the Safeguarding Representative should not delay referral to Social Services, the Police or taking advice from Thirtyone:eight
- The PCC will support the Safeguarding Representative in her role, and accept that any information she may have in her possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the safeguarding agencies or seek advice from Thirtyone:eight, although the PCC hope that members of the church will use the Church's 'Promoting a Safer Church' procedures. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Safeguarding Representative has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding Representative as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency directly. We hope by making this statement that the PCC demonstrate its commitment to effective safeguarding and the protection of all those who are vulnerable in line with confidentiality and data protection.

The role of the safeguarding representative is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to statutory agencies who have a legal duty to investigate. It is not the role of the Safeguarding Representative to investigate allegations and concerns.

Pastoral Care

Supporting those affected by abuse

The PCC is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to all those who have been affected by abuse who have contact with or are part of the life of the church.

Working with offenders

When someone attending St Peter and St Paul's Parish Church is known to have abused children or vulnerable adults or has been charged but not yet convicted of abusing children or vulnerable adults, the PCC will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care, but in its safeguarding commitment to the protection of children and vulnerable adults, set boundaries for that person which they will be expected to keep. This may involve the use of regular risk assessments and supervision agreements and contact with probation and/or the police.

Pastoral care will be offered without prejudice to all those who require it. This may also include a known offender. Where pastoral care is offered to both the person affected by abuse and the known offender, this should be offered by different people who are able to support those concerned impartially and effectively.

The Safeguarding Policy for the benefice of St Peter and St Paul's Parish Church, Pickering

Safeguarding Statement

The Parish Church Council recognises the importance of its ministry /work with children and young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

The following statement was agreed by the PCC on:

This place of worship/organisation is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being. Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable adults and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship/organisation unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with children and vulnerable adults.

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and good practice recommendations.
- Respecting the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with disabilities.
- Ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Following any denominational or organisational guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection.
- Supporting the safeguarding co-ordinator/s in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children/vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this place of worship/organisation.
- Supporting parents and families and ensuring that the place of worship/organisation is a safe place for all
 - Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of children and young people
 - Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work.
 - Supporting all in the place of worship/organisation affected by abuse.

- Adopting and following the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service.

We recognise:

- Children's Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a vulnerable adult.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult then speak to OUR SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE who has been approved by the PCC for St Peter and St Paul's Parish Church and Lockton, Levisham and Marishes churches.

Name: Melissa Cook
Position: **Safeguarding Representative**

A copy of the full policy, protocols and procedures is available from the Safeguarding Representative who is: Melissa Cook

Email PkgPSO@outlook.com

A copy of our safeguarding policy has been lodged with the York Diocese

Signed By: Church Warden Pamela Robb
Church Warden Andrew Orland
Date:

Further Help and Guidance

HELPLINES

North Yorkshire Council 0300 131 2 131.

Children's Social Services 01609 780780

NSPCC for adults concerned about a child 0808 800 5000 www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline for children and young people- 0800 1111

Action on Elder Abuse helpline 0808 808 8141 www.elderabuse.org.uk

24 hour National Domestic Violence helpline 0808 2000 247

NAPAC offers support and advice to adult survivors of childhood abuse 0808 801 0331

Stop it Now helps prevent child sexual abuse 0808 1000 900

Cruse bereavement helpline 0808 808 1677

Family Lives provides support and advice on family issues 0808 800 222

MACSAS for people who have been abused by church officers 0808 801 0340

Samaritans for people struggling to cope and needing someone to talk to 116123

Victim Support support for victims and families of abuse www.victimsupport.org.uk