

PARISH OF ST MARK'S, BATTERSEA

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; and
- 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; and
- 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 by:

In all our activities -

- valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people; and
- 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, following Diocesan procedures in -

- ensuring careful selection and recruitment of ordained and lay ministers, voluntary workers and paid workers with children and young people, in line with safer recruitment principles and checks; and
- providing supervision, support and training.

- the Parish of St Mark's, Battersea will, in good practice, carry out CRB checks on lay ministers, voluntary workers and paid workers with children and young people, every 3 years.

In our publicity -

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

When concerns are raised, following Diocesan procedures in -

- responding without delay to every concern raised that a child or young person may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm; or about the behaviour of an adult or child;
- working with the diocese and appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into child abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community; and
- challenging any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

In our care -

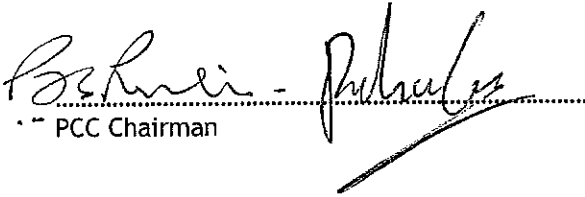
- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse; and
- ensuring that appropriate pastoral care is offered to any member of our church community against whom an allegation is made.

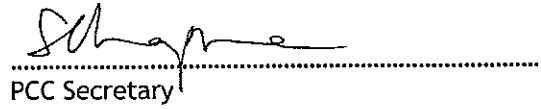
In our supervision, following Diocesan procedures in -

- 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 child or young person, or to pose a risk to them.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures annually.

The Parish of St Mark's, Battersea "Policy for Safeguarding Children" has been reviewed and updated:


.....
PCC Chairman


.....
PCC Secretary

Date: 14 March 2011