

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

### **Objective**

We aim to protect children with safe people, safe places and safe activities providing the necessary training, supervision and monitoring of our procedures to enable us to nurture children in the Christian faith and further the mission of Christ.

### **Our obligations to children and young people**

“Let the children come to me; do not try to stop them for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matt. 19:14). Implicit in these words of Jesus is a recognition of the unique status of children and young people. We will respect children as persons in their own right and give them especial protection because of their vulnerability.

- We will constantly pray for our work with children and young people.
- We accept and stress the main principle of the Children Act 1989 that the child's welfare is paramount in all circumstances.
- We will act responsibly and with integrity towards children and young people by not taking advantage of those in our care. We will not exploit our relationship of trust for the purpose of self-gratification.
- We will maintain the highest standards of care in all circumstances including pastoral care, worship, education and recreation.
- We will treat all allegations of abuse or risk of abuse seriously whether physical, sexual, emotional or neglect.

### **Categories of abuse**

#### **Physical Abuse**

Physical Abuse or unexplained injuries may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding or by failure to act to prevent harm.

#### **Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may be telling a child they are worthless, unloved or inadequate or imposing inappropriate expectations.

#### **Sexual Abuse**

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities. This may involve contact and non-contact activities.

#### **Neglect**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

## **RECOGNISING SIGNS OF ABUSE**

### **Physical**

Unexpected injuries or those which have not received medical attention.  
Bruises in unusual places.  
Hidden injuries.

### **Sexual**

Allegations made by child, preoccupation with sexual matters, sexually provocative behaviour, sexual behaviour through words, play or drawings, withdrawn behaviour.

### **Emotional**

Regression, nervousness, under achievement, attention seeking, running away, stealing, lying.

### **Neglect**

Dirty, undernourished, hungry, inappropriately dressed.  
It is important to note that the above signs are not to be taken as indications that abuse has taken place. They should make us stop and think as there could be other explanations.

## **GUIDELINES FOR GOOD PRACTICE**

- An adult should never be left alone with a child in a place or room which cannot easily be observed by others. This also protects adults from false allegations.
- When transferring children by car or minibus there must be a second adult in the vehicle.
- Casual visitors should on no account have access to group activities of children without the presence of an adult who is authorized as being responsible for the group.
- Children should not be touched in an inappropriate manner.
- Children must not be smacked or shaken.
- All activities for children in College should be supervised by people who have had clear CRB disclosures.
- Older children may not be used as surrogate helpers in place of an adult

## **HOW TO REACT IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE**

- Listen carefully and sympathetically.
- Reassure the child.
- Do not make the child repeat the story.
- Do not promise confidentiality.
- Let the child know you need to tell someone.
- Make a written record.
- Do not investigate or communicate with the person accused.

**INFORM**

- Social Services Department or Police Child Protection Unit.
- Principal of the college or the person appointed as having responsibility in his absence.

**SAFETY OF BUILDINGS**

- Minimise risks to children by providing a safe, secure environment.
- First Aid equipment is made available.
- Any accidents will be recorded and parents or guardians notified

*This Policy is Based on the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.  
Further information may be Obtained from the Church in Wales Code of Good Practice 'Children and Young People.' A copy of this is available in the Archdeacon Gordon James Library.*