



The Church of Saint Alban Tattenhall Chester

Child Protection Policy

St Alban's Church, Tattenhall, in common with other churches and organizations taking care of children, is required by law to have a written policy of Child Protection.

This policy is based on Child Protection Policy for the Church of England (Protecting All God's Children) and takes account of the guidelines of the Chester Diocese.

We take our duty and obligation to safeguard and protect all people extremely seriously, and we have adopted the National Church of England's robust safeguarding procedures and guidelines. If you or anyone you are in contact with would like to talk with someone independently, please call the safespaces helpline on 0300 303 1056 or email safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk.

Alternatively, you may wish to contact the Parish Safeguarding officer Cathy Kitchin or the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor in the Diocese of Chester on 07703 800031.

The Child Protection Policy Statement

St Alban's Church is committed to and will champion the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults both in society as a whole and in its own community. It will work to promote the safety and well-being of children and young people; all children have the right to feel safe and they should be protected and supported.

(When 'children' are stated within this policy this will refer to Children, young people and vulnerable adults)

To achieve this policy we shall adopt the following four principles:

- * Child Focused
- * Challenge to Improve
- * Working together
- * Inclusive and Respectful

Child Focused

- *Ensure the welfare of the child is paramount
- *Putting the needs of the children first
- *Enabling children, young people and their families to actively participate in decisions about their lives

Challenge to Improve

*Ensure all members within St Alban's Church adhere to safeguarding procedures set out in this document and challenge when these standards are not being met.

*Provide feedback on quality of practice to relevant adult.

Working Together

*Share learning based on experiences, to ensure improved practice and outcomes for children.

*Be innovative, willing to change, learn and be open to two way challenge.

Inclusive and respectful

*Promote diversity, equality and anti-discriminatory practice and challenge when this does not take place, including bad language or behaviour.

Parish Responsibilities

To appoint a Child Protection Coordinator to work with the Rector and PCC to implement the policy and procedures.

Child Protection Coordinator is

Cathy Kitchin 07825 330760 cathykitchin@googlemail.com

To annually review the Child Protection Policy, procedures and good practice.

All those working with children within St Alban's Church, Tattenhall have agreed to comply with these guidelines at all times as a condition of service.

Parents need to be made aware that workers are only on duty during the group activities themselves and we expect parents/carers to make adequate arrangements for delivery and collection to and from these groups. When family events (eg Messy Church) take place within the church, we expect parents to exercise responsibility for their own children.

Workers will at all times make every effort to set an example of behaviour.

Staffing

All adults over the age of 16 will have an up to date DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) where appropriate. This should be renewed in accordance with government guidelines.

For mixed groups there should ideally be a male and female present.

Good Practice Guidelines

All workers should:

Treat children with respect and dignity befitting their age.

Watch their language, tone of voice and body language.

Do not use physical punishment even if parents have permitted this.

Ask parents' permission if they need to see a child on his/her own

Make sure another adult is present if they are helping toilet or wash a child

Ensure that they are not alone with a child when an activity cannot be seen.

In a counselling situation with a young person, where privacy and confidentiality are important, make sure that there is another adult in the building who knows the meeting is taking place and with whom.

Should seek to demonstrate by example and teaching a positive and responsible attitude to alcohol and illegal substances. They should not consume alcohol when caring for young people in the name of the Church. They should not procure for, or accept alcohol from anyone under 18.

Workers should not:

Invade a child's privacy while washing or toileting

Be sexually suggestive, play rough or sexually provocative games even in fun. They should not allow children to involve them in excessive attention-seeking that is overtly sexual or physical in nature

Touch inappropriately or intrusively.

Ridicule, reject or show favouritism to a child.

Share sleeping accommodation with a child

Invite a child to their home

Bullying

We will not allow bullying of any sort. St Alban's Church has a strict zero tolerance of bullying. Bullying will not be tolerated and must be reported to the rector, child protection officer or a suitable adult immediately.

Transport

It is the responsibility of those who transport children on behalf of St Alban's Church to ensure they comply with the following guidelines at all times.

All drivers should hold a full driving licence, all cars carrying children must have fully comprehensive insurance, be roadworthy and should hold a current MOT certificate.

All children must wear a seatbelt, no exceptions. Booster seats should be used in compliance with government safety regulations.

Drivers must comply with all speed restrictions and other driving regulations including alcohol consumption.

Good Practice with Colleagues and Confidentiality

If you see another member of your team or an adult in church acting in ways which may be misconstrued, be prepared to speak to them or to the Children's representative about your concerns. This should be done face to face rather than email, text etc to protect confidentiality.

If a disclosure is reported this will be passed on to the Child Protection Officer who will then follow procedure endorsed by Cheshire West and Chester local safeguarding board.

All information regarding matters with children should be password protected to protect confidentiality.

Health and Safety

All adults should be aware of fire procedures, mobile telephones should be present in case of emergency when landlines are not available.

No smoking in any areas where children are present including the immediate grounds of the church when activities are in session.

A first aid kit should be available for use. All members should be aware of its location and who is allocated first aid officer.

An accident book should be kept in the church vestry, and all accidents should be recorded in it as soon as possible.

Before taking children off-site, Risk Assessments should be made and a detailed programme and list of contacts should be left with Church Leaders or the Children's representative.

Administration

A register must be kept of children including addresses, parent contact numbers and any specific medical information.

What to do in an Emergency

*Contact the emergency services. Make sure all in the group are accounted for.

*Advise all adults present that accident procedure is in operation and that no contact to any persons outside the group should be made. This should only be carried out by the person in charge or when permission has been given.

*Establish the name of the injured and the extent of any injuries

*Ensure an adult accompanies any child to hospital

*Collect the names and addresses of all witnesses as soon as possible and make notes of what was witnessed and actions taken.

*Contact the parent/guardian of any injured children

Signed 


Rector

Signed 

Child Protection Officer

Signed 

Churchwarden

Signed 

Churchwarden

Policy ratified by Tattenhall PCC on August 29th 2017