

Safeguarding Code of Practice for the parish of St Andrew, North Swindon

This code of practice works in conjunction with the parish safeguarding policy and the Bristol Diocesan Guidelines and seeks to enable the PCC to apply these guidelines within the context of the parish of North Swindon.

Most children do not come to church services in the parish unaccompanied. At St Andrew's church, the children's work happens in the body of the church or within the bounds of the church. In other venues, a variety of spaces are used. There are always at least 2 adults present with each group and parents are always welcome to stay with their children.

1. The fundamental rule is that no one is to work with children, or young people under 18 on their own, including junior helpers and unaccompanied teenagers. This includes times of preparation.
2. No one should be in church on their own; see also the Parish and Diocesan Lone Worker policy. There must be at least 2 people for Church Sitting, one of whom must have a current clear enhanced DBS disclosure and access to at least one working mobile phone.

Children/Youth Work at St Andrew's Church and in other venues where activities take place:

3. All leaders of children's groups must have a current clear enhanced DBS check completed through the Diocese of Bristol. There must always be at least two adults in each room.
4. Junior helpers, those under 16 who cannot be checked through DBS, must be assigned to at least two adult helpers when helping with any children's work.
5. Those who have been checked and received a clear enhanced DBS disclosure should, whilst working within the church or St Francis School, wear a clearly visible identification displaying their name and the fact that they are DBS cleared.

Other Work:

6. Any person who undertakes pastoral visiting on behalf of the church or who is involved with home communions, must have a current clear enhanced DBS disclosure. They must also be aware of the Diocesan Lone Worker Policy.
7. Please refer to the parish safeguarding policy for a list of all persons who need to be checked.

Safer Recruitment and other matters:

8. (a) Those who wish to take up a role must be Safely Recruited in accordance with Diocesan Policy. (b) In other circumstances, more information will be required before the person can take up the role (see Diocesan Guidelines) and if the person holds a Bishop's license, then the diocesan clearance will be checked. (c) Everyone will be given a copy of the Safeguarding policy and this Code of Practice and will be asked to sign to say that they have received them and agreed to both.
9. The Safeguarding Representatives will keep track of when DBS checks need repeating.
10. Any matters of concern should be reported to the parish Safeguarding Representatives.

Dated: 13th September 2017