

Parish Policy for Safeguarding Children

The Parish of Armathwaite approved this policy at the Parochial Church Council meeting held on 10th January 2024.

Legal

The Children's Act 1989 and the Home Office Code of Practice "Safe from Harm" requires voluntary organisations to ensure the safety of all children under 18 in their care.

The Parish of Armathwaite has adopted the safeguarding children guidelines of the Church of England and the Carlisle Diocese Safeguarding Policy.

Ethos Statement

The teaching of Christ establishes the special significance of every human being and especially the central place of children in the sight of God. Our church is committed to fulfil His law of love and to provide for the safety, wellbeing and proper development of all children and young people in our care.

We will also properly equip and support those adults who work with and relate to them.

Children's Safeguarding Co-ordinator

The PCC has appointed a Children's Safeguarding Co-ordinator for children's work who will ensure the implementation of this policy and the diocese policy for Safeguarding, and give regular reports to the PCC.

The person appointed for the twelve months from the date of this policy is –

Name	David Bird
Address	3 The Lea, Laithes, Penrith. CA11 0AZ
Tel. No	017684 84879
e-mail	davidbird611@hotmail.com

HEALTH AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT

The PCC will ensure that an annual assessment takes place to ensure that every activity which it organises for children, on or off the premises, will provide proper safeguards to protect them from harm. The assessment will consider the premises, activities, procedures, equipment, staffing and all other issues which may affect the potential safety of the children. The PCC will require all children's workers to re-fresh their understanding of the diocesan Code of Conduct and Practice.

The PCC requires that every other organisation which uses its premises will regularly conduct a similar assessment.

INSURANCE

The PCC will ensure that appropriate insurance (and third party liability) cover exists for all participants in the activities that it organises.

The current policies are: Ecclesiastical No. 4/XPG/9072712

Details of the policies and the cover they provide are held by Kenneth G. Bonsor, church warden.

The PCC requires that any individual or organisation using its premises will also provide adequate insurance cover.

APPOINTMENT OF VOLUNTARY AND PAID STAFF WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN

In accordance with the Government document "Safe from Harm" and the Carlisle Diocese policy regarding Safer Recruitment, the PCC will ensure that all those who work with children will be properly appointed, trained and supervised. This will include:

When appointing new staff – before they begin their role

- Appropriate Job Descriptions will be drawn up in advance;
- Formal interviews will be held;
- At least two References will be sought and taken up;
- A Confidential declaration will be completed;
- All new personnel will be required to complete a DBS disclosure before they are appointed and will be expected to complete a probationary period of at least 6 months before their appointment is reviewed and confirmed.

Existing staff –

- Will be given a written Job Description which will be updated each year;
- If this was not done at the time of their original appointment then any references which were obtained but not taken up will now be pursued;
- Renew their DBS disclosure every five years

All staff –

- Will receive regular in-service training
- Will be properly supervised

Activities/Organisations

The following activities/organisations have been approved by the PCC for the twelve-month period from the date of this policy.

Name of activity: **Sunday worship, baptisms, weddings and funerals**
Name of Leader: Priest in Charge: The Revd Mark Houston/Church Wardens
Contact Tel. No: 01768 885669
Address: The New Vicarage, Plumpton. CA11 9PA
Name of authorised helper: Sidespeople & readers as per the rota of services

Name of activity: **Confirmation Group.**
Name of Leader: Priest in Charge: The Revd Mark Houston/Church Wardens
Contact Tel No: 01768 885669
Address: The New Vicarage, Plumpton. CA11 9PA
Name of authorised helper: *To be decided*

Name of activity: **Good Friday Walk of Witness**
Name of Leader: Priest in Charge: The Revd Mark Houston/Church Wardens
Contact Tel No: 01768 885669
Address: The New Vicarage, Plumpton. CA11 9PA
Name of authorised helper: *To be decided (All responsible adults on the day)*

Name of organisation: **Messy Church**
Name of Leaders: 1. Jenny Rhodes 2. Jonathan Rhodes
Contact Tel. No: 016974 72509
Address: 18 Mill Brow, Armathwaite

Name of authorised helpers: Sue Bonsor, Lisa Beken

Name of Activity: **School Worship**
Name of leader: Priest in Charge: The Revd Mark Houston/Church Wardens
Contact Tel No: 01768 885669
Address: The New Vicarage, Plumpton. CA11 9PA

Name of authorised helpers: Jenny Roscoe, Ken Bonsor

During interregnum, please refer to the Rural Dean or Church Wardens. Contact details are:

Revd David Sargent	revdave.sargent@outlook.com	H: 01768 863000	M: 07732 193197
Ken Bonsor	ksponsor@msn.com	H: 016974 72054	
Jenny Roscoe	jennyroscoe1@gmail.com	H: 016974 72383	

ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

Allegations against anyone who attends any church activity will be fully and honestly dealt with. The Diocese procedures will be followed (in section 6i of the Diocese procedures). All allegations will be taken seriously and recorded. The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and the Social Services or Police will be contacted without delay, and all information will be shared.

DISCLOSURES

Any child who makes a disclosure or allegation of child abuse will be sensitively and appropriately dealt with, following the Diocese policy (section 6i). Any adult to whom a disclosure is made will contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and will follow his/her advice. When appropriate, the person to whom the disclosure has been made will pass on the information immediately to the Social Services and/or the Police.

SUSPICIONS

Any member of the Church who suspects that a child is being abused in any way whatsoever will immediately contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and follow his/her advice.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidential information concerning any adult or child will be fully protected.

COMPLAINTS


Any complaint against any member of the Church will be dealt with in accordance to the Diocese's current complaints procedure. If a complaint relates to children in any way, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser will be informed immediately.

MONITORING & REVIEW

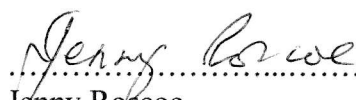
This policy will be reviewed annually. The Archdeacons will ask about it every year in their Articles of Enquiry, (and follow up any issues they may have with the answers received) and discuss it every three years at their Visitations.

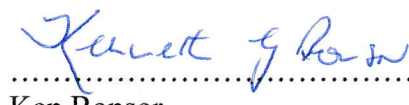
A copy of the policy will be sent to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and the Archdeacon.

Priest in Charge:


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The Revd Mark Houston

Churchwardens:


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Jenny Roscoe


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Ken Bonsor

Date

10th January 2024