

St Lawrence Parochial Church Council (PCC) shall do what is reasonably practicable and within its resources to meet its obligations under the Church of England's policy and practice guidance – the House of Bishops' *Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Church'* – and information published on the Church of England's website and, specifically, set out in the *Parish Safeguarding Handbook*.

Organisation

Key elements of local organisation to meet safeguarding obligations:

1. Acknowledging that ultimate local responsibility rests with the Vicar, who is supported by the Churchwardens, PCC and the Parish Safeguarding Officer.
2. Appointing a Parish Safeguarding Officer who works with the Vicar, Churchwardens, Administrator and the PCC to manage aspects such as processing and monitoring DBS Disclosure applications, maintaining safeguarding records (for DBS disclosures and safeguarding training), reporting to the PCC and APCM and other duties set out in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook.
3. At each meeting of the PCC receiving a monitoring report containing details of compliance with key obligations and highlighting any issues.
4. At each APCM, including within the annual report a statement on compliance with duties in respect of 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.
5. Ensuring that leaders of parish groups (such as children's activities, choir, bellringers etc) understand and appreciate the need to ensure safeguarding arrangements are met within their area of responsibility.
6. Making all members of the church family aware of the general need for good safeguarding practice with children and vulnerable adults in the context of parish activities.

Arrangements

General arrangements are set out in the *Parish Safeguarding Handbook*.

Key local arrangements:

1. Appointing a Parish Safeguarding Officer
2. Operating a robust DBS monitoring and reminder system
3. Requiring training obligations to be fulfilled
4. Monitoring all aspects of safeguarding compliance (including training) at PCC meetings
5. Seeking external advice where necessary
6. Operating confidential reporting in line with Church of England guidance
7. Publishing a Safeguarding Policy Statement, and other essential information, on the church website and on a notice board
8. Regularly reviewing the Policy Statement and arrangements at a PCC meeting annually (or sooner if necessary)
9. Including the management of safeguarding risks within planning and delivery of all groups, events and activities
10. Being an exemplar for other groups using the church premises
11. Including safeguarding considerations in recruitment to all parish roles (paid and voluntary)

This Policy was approved by the Parochial Church Council on **22nd March 2023**

This Policy is due for review at the PCC meeting in **March 2024**