

**CHRIST CHURCH with ST. PHILIP**

**WORCESTER PARK**

**SAFE FROM HARM (CHILD PROTECTION) POLICY**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**As the people of Christ Church with St. Philip, we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual, within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community, of all ages. It is, therefore, the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse of children and young people.**

## **Diocese of Southwark Policy for Safeguarding Children**

**We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:**

- are youth-friendly and child-friendly and nurture their positive development
- enable children and young people to be active contributors to the church community
- protect children and young people from actual or potential harm
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

**We recognise that:**

- the welfare of the child or young person is paramount
- all children (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- abuse of children can occur in all communities and is most likely to occur within families and by people known to the child
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

**We will endeavour to safeguard children and young people by:  
In all our activities -**

- valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people
- fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with children and young people, in co-operation with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities

**In our recruitment of paid staff and volunteers, following Diocesan procedures in -**

- ensuring all necessary checks are made to promote the safe selection and recruitment of ordained and lay ministers, voluntary workers and paid workers with children and young people
- providing supervision, support and training

**In our publicity -**

- sharing information about good safeguarding practice with children, parents, and all those working with them

**When concerns are raised, following Diocesan procedures in -**

- responding without delay to every concern raised that a child or young person may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm; or about the behaviour of an adult or child
- working with the diocese and appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into child abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community

**In our care -**

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse
- ensuring that appropriate pastoral care is offered to any member of our church community against whom an allegation is made

**In our supervision, following Diocesan procedures in -**

- ensuring, in partnership with the diocese and other agencies, that care and supervision is provided for any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or young person, or to pose a risk to them.

**We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures annually.**