

St Martin's Parish Church, Byker

Parish Policy on Work with Young People and Children

The Parochial Church Council of St Martin's hereby adopts the following policy for work with children and young people for the benefit and protection of children, young people, their parents/guardians, leaders, helpers, and this PCC. The parish church is also St Martin's Centre and the PCC will where it is able work together with St Martin's Centre Partnership in following this policy. The PCC commits itself:

1. To work with St Martin's Centre Partnership to provide as safe and welcoming environment as possible for children and young people who take part in the life of the church.
2. The PCC will appoint all volunteers working with young people and children and determine with individuals whether or not youth and children's work is an appropriate use of their gifts and skills.
3. The PCC is responsible for obtaining and maintaining Personal Disclosure and Reference Form records of all leaders and occasional helpers who have access to children and young people.
4. The PCC, in cooperation with the Priest in Charge and Wardens is responsible for ensuring that Criminal Record Bureau checks are made regularly on all who have contact with children, in accordance with diocesan policy.
5. To acknowledge that being convicted, cautioned or bound over for a criminal offence does not automatically debar an individual from working with children or young people.
6. To support, resource and monitor the work of leaders, especially through a regular meeting that will involve all workers with children and young people.
7. To consult regularly with our children and young people about the way they perceive their needs.
8. To acknowledge and affirm the work done by leaders, acts of commissioning in public worship will be held.
9. To maintain children and young peoples' records of information, permission forms or any health and parent consent forms.
10. To authorise children and youth programmes and activities carried out on behalf of the PCC.
11. To appoint a local independent person and to ensure that their name is available to children, leaders and church members.

Our Safeguarding Officer is Sandra Potts to be contacted through parish website or on 0191 265 4870. Our Independent Person for reporting safeguarding issues is Lynn Annis, to be contacted through St Martin's Centre, 0191 276 4002

This policy was adopted by the PCC on 17th Oct 2012. It will continue to be reviewed annually.

Last Reviewed and amended: 12 Dec 2018