**Parish of St Matthew’s Surbiton**

**Policy for Safeguarding Children**

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 17 September 2024.

**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 careful selection and recruitment of ordained and lay ministers as appropriate, voluntary workers, and paid workers with children and young people, in line with safer recruitment principles and checks
* 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
* challenging any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust

**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.**

**Further resources/contact details**

**To report a safeguarding concern:**

Southwark diocese - safeguarding@southwark.anglican.org

Tel: 020 7939 9441      Out of hours 020 3874 6743

Local authority - Kingston Council Adult Safeguarding

www,kingston.gov.uk>adult-safeguarding

Tel: 020 8547 5005.     Out of hours 020 8770 5000

Children’s Services

SPA (Single point of access):  020 8547 5008.  Out of hours 020 8770 5000

**17 September 2024**