



### Safeguarding Policy: Children's Group

- 1 The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Less, Cambridge (LSM) is committed to safeguarding all those who attend worship and the other activities that are offered by the church. LSM follows the House of Bishops' 2017 safeguarding policy statement, Promoting a Safer Church (<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/cofe-policy-statement.pdf>) and the Diocese of Ely's policy and procedures 2017 (<https://www.elydiocese.org/safeguarding/policy-and-practice-guidance>). All participants agree to follow the good practice guide with children and young people.
- 2 The participation of children in the LSM services and activities is greatly welcomed and LSM has responsibility to ensure that they can participate in activities and public worship safely.
- 3 Children whose parents are attending the 10:30 High Mass on Sundays may participate in the Children's Group during the mass.
- 4 Children may also attend activities during services for children, e.g. during Christmas and Easter.
- 5 The Children's Group meets in the LSM Parish Centre between the beginning of the Liturgy of the Word and the beginning of Liturgy of the Sacrament (the Peace).
- 6 The group is led by a leader who is required to follow the Basic Awareness and Foundation safeguarding training courses developed by the Diocese of Ely, and to undergo a DBS check.
- 7 The leader is assisted by a helper who is also required to follow the Basic Awareness and Foundation safeguarding training courses developed by the Diocese of Ely and to undergo a DBS check.
- 8 All officers, staff, and volunteers in the church who, either supervised or unsupervised, on a frequent or infrequent basis, teach, train, instruct, care for or supervise children or provide advice/guidance on physical, emotional or educational well-being to children, including all those ordained and ordinands, will also go through the child-protection procedures mentioned in Item 6 above.
- 9 Parents or carers who wish to remain with their children throughout the Children's Group are solely and fully responsible for their own safety and the safety of their children.
- 10 There is a designated nursery area where parents or carers and their children can play. Parents or carers are solely responsible for making sure they offer their children toys that are safe and appropriate for their age.
- 11 No refreshments or hot drinks are served during the Children's Group.

- 12 Children and their parents or carers have access to the toilets in the Parish Centre. Children who are not accompanied by their parents or carers have to be able to use the toilet without assistance but should inform the leader or helper that they will use the toilet, so that the leader or helper can make sure the toilet area is safe and clear of members of congregation who may have left the service to use the toilet.
- 13 If the children are given access to the garden during the Children's Group, the garden will be closed to the general public. Children are not allowed to climb trees or other structures or buildings in the garden, and are required to use the space with consideration to others and especially to younger children.
- 14 Written consent from parents or carers will be sought for the use and storage of photographs, the use of mobile phones.
- 15 The Coordinator of the Children's Group, Alex Francis, will keep the register, contact details for the children, and consent forms in accordance to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- 16 This policy is to be given to all parents or carers of children who participate in the Children's Group. If they have any queries they may direct them, in the first instance, to Fr Robert Mackley (vicar@lsm.org.uk), to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Patricia Boulhosa (safeguarding@lsm.org.uk), or to the Coordinator of the Children's Group, Alex Francis (acbhoward@googlemail.com).
- 17 This policy has immediate effect.
- 18 This policy will be reviewed in January 2023.