**SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**January 2021**

This policy is written under the guidance from the Diocese of Lichfield and will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved. We recognize that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.

Reverend Sue Mayo and Nicola Davis are our approved Safeguarding Co-ordinators for the year 2021-22 and are the point of contact through which concerns about safeguarding and child protection will be channelled. They are responsible to the PCC of Dunston with Coppenhall Parish for ensuring that these procedures are implemented.

**1.** **The Parochial Church Council of Dunston with Coppenhall Parish will take all reasonable care to ensure the safety of the children, young people and vulnerable adults for whom it bears responsibility.**

* We recognise that a position of power in relation to another creates a risk of vulnerability. As a consequence we strive to ensure that we consider power when working and leading with people.
* We recognise that children by virtue of legal status and dependency on adults for their emotional and physical needs will always be vulnerable and at a disadvantage. We commit to considering this in our children’s activities– undertaking supervision of staff working with them and risk assessing activities and groups as a check and balance in our work.
* We understand that illness, disability, race, mental health and other issues can put adults in a position of vulnerability. We accept that these can be long term (ongoing), or temporary. We commit to considering this in our adults’ activities and events – undertaking supervision of staff and risk assessing activities and groups as a check and balance in our work.
* We commit to transparency in our actions and accountability for our work.

**2. As members of Dunston with Coppenhall Parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults and children to whom we minister.**

* We will consider issues relating to spiritual care in prayer activity, ensuring that members of our prayer team consider power, control and spiritual abuse issues in their ministry.
* We will ensure that leaders of our children’s Sunday schools and house groups as well as other ministries that involve working with vulnerable persons have appropriate enhanced DBS checks.
* We will ensure that those who care for people in our parish attend appropriate safeguarding training.
* We commit to discuss safeguarding and support to of safeguarding as a standing Dunston with Coppenhall Parish PCC agenda item

**3. As Dunston with Coppenhall Parish we commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.**

The Dunston with Coppenhall Parish PCC is directly responsible for the following groups which include children and young people and vulnerable adults:

* Messy Church (Coppenhall)
* Worship Band
* Alpha Group
* Prayer Group
* Pastoral Care events
* Homegroups

**4. As Dunston with Coppenhall Parish we commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.**

* We commit to discuss safeguarding and support to of safeguarding as a standing Dunston with Coppenhall Parish PCC agenda item
* We will ensure that those in positions of trust (such as wardens), and those with remits or leadership of groups involving children/vulnerable adults have appropriate enhanced DBS checks and that these are updated every 5 year.
* We will engage with appropriate training and seek to develop relationships with other agencies and the diocese on safeguarding.
* Safeguarding including revision of policy will be a regular Dunston with Coppenhall Parish PCC agenda item and agree that whilst we have a named co-ordinator we will accept collective ownership for this important issue.
* We will be transparent, open and not have secrets.

**5. Dunston with Coppenhall Parish** **commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.**

* We will consider the impact of power, disadvantage, inclusion, disability, age and race on how we provide and plan for our ministry.
* We will actively (but appropriately), challenge each other in our work in order to ensure we consider a wide range of perspectives and views– ensuring that we do not oppressively impose our own values or views to another’s detriment.
* Where a person struggles with a activity due to disadvantage, disability or illness we will go the extra mile to assist them so they can participate and contribute as a full part of the church.

**6. It is the responsibility of each of us in Dunston with Coppenhall Parish** **to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.**

* We will not collude, keep secrets or make decisions when we have suspicion of abuse. We will seek through discussion the views of others and ensure, through use of external agencies and the diocese safeguarding service, that we engage and welcome external perspectives in order to promote a healthy accountable culture.
* We will report without being bias to our personal view. We will report and not investigate.
* We will record concerns factually in diocese suggested formats (as per recording with care policy 2019)
* We will not take chances with the welfare of children or vulnerable adults.
* We are open to scrutiny and encourage this in others.
* We have zero tolerance to abuse and put the welfare of children and vulnerable adults first.
* We take seriously training and activities relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and seek to engrain this in our congregational culture.

**7. As Dunston with Coppenhall Parish we undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.**

* We will ensure that those in positions of trust (such as wardens), and those with remits or leadership of groups involving children and vulnerable adults have appropriate enhanced DBS checks and that these are updated every 5 years.
* We will follow all guidance from the diocese on safer recruitment procedures with reference to the adopted local policy. We will have a person trained in safer recruitment on all interviews.
* We will engage with appropriate training and seek to develop relationships with other agencies and the diocese on safeguarding.
* Safeguarding including revision of policy will be a regular Dunston with Coppenhall Parish PCC agenda item and agree that whilst we have a named co-ordinator we will accept collective ownership for this important issue.
* We will be transparent, open and not have secrets.
* Our incumbent undertakes to ensure that to the best of her knowledge all Dunston with Coppenhall Parish PCC members, wardens and ministry leaders are of good standing.
* The Dunston with Coppenhall Parish PCC undertakes to appoint and upskill dedicated Safeguarding co-ordinators.
* Safeguarding co-ordinators undertake to maintain a relationship with diocese level safeguarding team and ensure that this policy and procedures are followed.

**8. We in Dunston with Coppenhall Parish are committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst children and adults who may be vulnerable.**

* We will ensure that those in positions of trust (such as wardens), and those with remits or leadership of groups involving children and vulnerable adults have appropriate enhanced DBS checks and that these are updated every 5 years.
* We will engage with appropriate training and seek to develop relationships with other agencies and the diocese on safeguarding.
* Safeguarding including revision of policy will be a regular Dunston with Coppenhall Parish PCC agenda item and agree that whilst we have named co-ordinators we will accept collective ownership for this important issue.
* We will be transparent, open and not have secrets.
* Our incumbent undertake to ensure that to the best of his or her knowledge all Dunston with Coppenhall Parish PCC members, wardens and ministry leaders are of good standing.
* The Dunston with Coppenhall Parish PCC undertakes to appoint and upskill dedicated Safeguarding co-ordinators.
* Safeguarding co-ordinators undertake to maintain a relationship with diocese level safeguarding team and endure that this policy is followed.

**9. Dunston with Coppenhall Parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.**

* Dunston with Coppenhall Parish will report and record in line with Diocese policies and comply with local guidance for implementing national policies as defined in diocese polices. These include the diocese safeguarding policy, recording with care policy, social media policy and safer recruitment policy.

**10. Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established in Dunston with Coppenhall Parish and the churches within it – St Leonard’s, Dunston and St Lawrence’s Coppenhall.**

* Those working with children and/or vulnerable adults will sign a declaration to state that they have read and agree to abide by the points outlined in this policy and associated procedures.

**This church appoints** Reverend Sue Mayo and Nicola Davis **to represent the concerns and views of children and vulnerable adults at our meetings and to outside bodies as Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators.**

Signed

**Incumbent**

**Date:**

**Churchwarden (St Leonard’s Church, Dunston)**

**Date:**

**Churchwarden (St Lawrence’s Church, Coppenhall)**

**Date:**