

Ely Cathedral

Child Protection Policy

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Foreword

Over recent years all who work with children, and those who assume responsibility for the management of this work, have become increasingly aware of the demands upon them to ensure that children are safe whilst in the care of their organisation.

AFTER THE CHILDREN ACT (1989) BECAME LAW, THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND BEGAN TO DEVELOP ITS OWN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CHILDREN WHO COME INTO ITS CARE DAY BY DAY AND WEEK BY WEEK. IN 1995 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S HOUSE OF BISHOP'S ISSUED ITS FIRST CHILD PROTECTION POLICY. THIS HAS BEEN REVISED TWICE AND THE LATEST EDITION, *PROTECTING ALL GOD'S CHILDREN, THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY FOR THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND, AUTHORISED BY THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS*, WAS PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2004. THIS INCLUDES A POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH.

THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will champion the protection of children and young people both in society as a whole and in its own community. It fully accepts, endorses and will implement the principle enshrined in the Children Act 1989 that the welfare of the child is paramount. The Church of England will foster and encourage best practice within its community by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents in the care of their children. It will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. It is committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory bodies when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

At Ely Cathedral we need to know that all the children in our midst, from visitors who drop in once on a weekday, to choristers who are here most days, are safe. We want the Cathedral to be a place where children thrive.

This policy has been drawn up by Mrs Gill Ambrose, Children's Work Adviser Officer for the Diocese of Ely and Mrs Jan Munt, Cathedral Education Officer, with particular acknowledgements to Leicester Cathedral and to members of the Cathedral community for their support and advice.

It was passed by Cathedral Chapter on 7 October 2004 and both the policy and its application will be reviewed annually.

I commend this policy to the Cathedral community, and the children who come here to your prayers.

Dean of Ely

Introduction

This policy comprises three main sections

- Section 1** sets out how the Chapter will protect under 18s through careful selection and training of those involved in work with U18s.
- Section 2** sets out how the Chapter will protect U 18s through ensuring that good practice is followed in all cathedral activities involving U18s.
- Section 3** sets out how allegations and suspicions of abuse will be managed.

The intention of these sections is not to trap our work with U18s in a rigid cage but to provide a supportive framework to protect both U 18s and workers.

Definition of terms

For the purposes of this document the terms

- **child**
- **young person**
- **under 18**
- **U 18**

are used interchangeably to refer to anyone who is under the age of eighteen. If a portion refers to a narrower age range, the policy will identify this.

The terms '**staff**' and '**worker**' are used to mean anyone working on behalf of the cathedral, lay or ordained, paid or voluntary,

When the policy identifies a particular category of worker then that portion of the policy should be read as referring only to that category- e.g. priests hearing confession.

Cathedral Child Protection Officer refers to the person named by the Chapter who coordinates the cathedral's child protection procedures. The role includes

- advising the Dean and the Chapter on matters of Child Protection
- advising workers on matters of Child Protection
- keeping confidential declaration forms safely
- consulting with the Dean if a particular appointment gives cause for concern
- ensuring allegations and suspicions of abuse are managed correctly
- liaison with the diocese