

The Parish of Abbots Langley

Our Commitment to Children

- the principles on which our children's work and child protection policy are based

'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.' (Matthew 18.5)

Statement of Aims

Our children and young people are an integral but special part of our congregation with distinct needs. It is our duty and our privilege to educate, encourage and nurture our children as they grow from dependence to independence by providing a safe and secure environment in which their physical, emotional and spiritual growth can take place.

Key points

1. We welcome children and young people as important members of our community and commit ourselves to providing an environment which is as safe and welcoming as possible for all who come.
2. We commit ourselves to providing suitable liturgical, educational and social opportunities so that our children may grow in their faith.
3. We recognise the importance of reliable and committed people to work specifically with children and young people and will endeavour to recruit and retain suitable workers.
4. All who work with our children and young people should be actively supported by the clergy and PCC, and be encouraged and enabled to take proper training as appropriate.
5. All who work in any way with our children and young people must obtain a certificate of enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau through the Diocese, as the law requires, before commencing any work with young people.
6. It is the responsibility of the PCC, working with the leaders of groups and organisations that use our Churches and Church Hall, to ensure that the physical environment is as safe as possible for children and young people.
7. Where parents or carers are present, they are ultimately responsible for the safety of the child/children in their care.
8. Where there is any evidence or suspicion of abuse, the correct procedures must be followed for informing relevant authorities. (These procedures are set out in the parish Child Protection Policy '*Safeguarding our Children*', which is given to all who work with our children and young people, is available via a link from our parish website, and a copy of which is kept in the parish office.)
9. We accept and endorse the principles of the Children Act (1989), the House of Bishops' Policy on Child Protection '*Protecting All God's Children*' (2004).

**Adopted by the PCC
23rd January 2008**