

## **Scottish Episcopal Church**

Safeguarding Children and Young People  
in the Church

### **A Summary of Good Practice for Paid & Voluntary Workers**

*The witness of Scripture recognises and affirms God's love for all members of the human family and the priority given in Jesus' ministry to children and the vulnerable of society. His ministry was one of welcome for all. To be free to worship and participate in the life of the Church, people need to feel safe and included. Good safeguarding practice helps to ensure that everyone is welcome in a church community. Good safeguarding practice is part of how we value people, and treat them with respect.*

*Safeguarding Policy, General Synod 2020*

## **WHAT TO DO ...**

### **If a child or young person discloses to you abuse by someone else:**

- allow him or her to speak without interruption, accepting what is said, but do not investigate
- alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation, while passing no judgement
- let them know you are glad they have shared this information with you
- advise the child or young person that you **must** pass on the information

### **If you suspect a child or young person is being abused, emotionally, physically or sexually:**

- report the matter to your Church or Protection Officer, your Priest or the Provincial Officer

### **If you receive an allegation about harm or abuse:**

- immediately tell your Church or Diocesan Protection Officer, your Priest or the Provincial Officer
- try to ensure that no-one is placed in a position which could cause further

**In all cases:**

- record the facts and report these to your Church or Diocesan Protection Officer, your Priest and/or the Provincial Officer
- you must refer; you **must not** investigate

**YOU MUST**

- treat all children and young people with respect
- promote a safe environment and encourage others to follow your example
- ensure that, whenever possible, there is more than one adult present during your organisation's activities with children or young people, or at least that you are within sight or hearing of others
- respect a young person's right to personal privacy

- encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like
- remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned
- be aware that even caring physical contact with a child or young person may be misinterpreted
- recognise that special caution is required in moments when you are discussing sensitive issues with children or young people
- operate within the Church's Code of Good Practice

**YOU MUST NOT**

- have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children or young people

- allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour
- make suggestive/derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children or young people
- jump to conclusions about others without checking facts
- exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues
- show favouritism to any individual
- rely on your good name or that of the Church to protect you
- believe “it could never happen to me”
- take a chance when common sense, policy and practice suggest another more prudent approach