St Philip’s Centre, Leicester

Safeguarding Policy Statement – Children, Young People and Adults

This policy was first adopted at the Trustees’ meeting held on 10th November 2015. The most recent review and update was carried out on 24th May 2023.

The St Philip’s Centre is committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment, where everyone is respected and valued. It aims to ensure that the organisation is run in such a way that actively prevents harm, harassment, bullying abuse and neglect and is ready to respond safely and well if there are concerns or incidents.

To this end, the Trustees and staff of St Philip’s Centre adopt the Safeguarding policy statement for children, young people and adults together with the handbook ‘Promoting a Safer Centre’ and commits to the implementation of this policy. This being the case, the Trustees will:

* Appoint a Safeguarding Coordinator to work with the Director and Trustees to implement policy and procedures. The coordinator will ensure that any concerns about a child/vulnerable adult or the behaviour of an adult are appropriately reported both to the statutory agencies and to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. The Co-ordinator, if not a member of the Trustees, will have the right to attend its meetings and will report to it at least annually on the implementation of this policy.
* Ensure that a person is nominated to act as somebody to whom children/vulnerable adults may talk to about any problems (to be known as the Independent Person), in the event that this cannot be done by the Co-ordinator or through other arrangements.
* Display in premises where children’s activities take place the contact details of the Co-ordinator and Independent Person, along with the Childline and Parentline telephone numbers and web addresses. A copy of this statement of policy will also be displayed in such places.
* Ensure that all those authorised to work with children/vulnerable adults or who are in a position of authority are appropriately recruited according to safer recruitment practice in line with Church of England national policy, and are trained, resourced and supported. This will include ensuring they have access to all relevant polices and Practice Guidance produced by the Church of England or the Diocese of Leicester.
* Ensure that only authorized people work with children/vulnerable adults and that all such work is carried out within appropriate accountability structures. As part of our work, SPC asks some consultants/ faith practitioners to deliver training/education on an occasional basis. In the absence of carrying out DBS checks, the following safeguards are in place:
  + A fully DBS checked member of SPC staff will be present throughout the session(s)
  + In the overwhelming majority of cases, a teacher/ staff member from a school/ college will be present or immediately available
  + The consultant/ faith practitioner will be required to follow the policies of the host which is either SPC and/ or the school/ college
  + SPC will carry out checks on all external speakers/consultants/ faith practitioners
* Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children/vulnerable adults undertaken in the name of the Centre.
* Review the implementation of the safeguarding policy, procedures and practices at least annually.
* Work to create a culture of informed vigilance which takes children & vulnerable adults seriously.
* Pay particular attention to all indicators of vulnerability to ensure the welfare of children/vulnerable adults.
* Ensure that those who may pose a threat to children/young people/vulnerable adults are effectively managed and monitored.
* Ensure that a health and safety policy and the appropriate procedures and risk assessments in respect of premises and activities are in place and that these are reviewed periodically.
* Act without delay on allegations or suspicions of abuse using the procedure laid down by the Diocese of Leicester.
* Respond without delay to any complaints received regarding children’s work or the safeguarding of children/vulnerable adults, whether that is as part of the Centre’s work or that of partner organisations.
* Ensure that all new Trustees and staff members have access to this policy and the Safeguarding Handbook so that they are aware of their responsibilities. Trustees will be updated on safeguarding matters at each meeting.
* Co-operate fully with investigations by statutory agencies and not conduct its own investigations except with the prior approval of statutory agencies.
* Seek to offer informed pastoral care to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.
* Aim to run Safeguarding Awareness Days every two years.
* Update staff on safeguarding matters at the weekly staff meetings and ensure that safeguarding is a standing item at every Trustee meeting.

Our Independent Person whom children, youth workers and volunteers may talk to if they wish about any concerns is:

Zoé Butler

Director of Student Services & Marketing

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This policy statement will be renewed annually and progress in carrying it out will be monitored by the Safeguarding Co-ordinator who is:

Mr Riaz Ravat

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This statement was agreed by the Trustees of St Philip’s Centre on 24th May 2023.

Signed: Signed:

Professor Robert Allison Dr Tom Wilson

Chair of Trustees Director of St Philip’s Centre