Shankill
Parish
Lurgan

Working in Partnership with Parents Policy

SHANKILL PARISH CHURCH LURGAN - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS/CARERS POLICY

Working in partnership with parents/carers helps to safeguard children. Shankill Parish Church sees the welfare of children as paramount and therefore seeks to form positive relationships between clergy, staff/volunteers and parents/carers to encourage mutual trust and support. Partnership with parents/carers and families involves information sharing and consultation regarding all aspects of their child's participation in activities organised by the Church.

In order to foster positive relationships and a good working partnership between clergy/staff/volunteers and parents/carers the Church shall:

• Ensure that all clergy, staff and volunteers working with their child are introduced to parents/carers.

• Provide parents/carers with information leaflets on Child Safeguarding Policy.

• Make available to parents/carers, via their website, all relevant policies and procedures.

• Ensure that clergy/staff/volunteers make themselves available to talk to parents/ carers informally on a regular basis.

• Allow parents/carers the opportunity to visit their child's activity from time to time.
• Regularly provide information on activities and events both verbally and in writing.

• Regularly provide feedback to parents on their child's progress and participation.

The Church shall encourage all parents/carers to:

• Ask questions about policies and procedures.

• Make suggestions or comments.

• Ask about their child's experiences in the organisation.

• Talk to clergy/staff/volunteers about how their child is getting on in activities.

• Keep clergy, staff and volunteers informed about family events/situations that may be causing children anxiety.

• Attend events organised by the Church

It is essential that this working partnership is based on mutual respect and value so that if an occasion arises whereby a clergy, staff member or volunteer has a concern about a child, this can be discussed with parents/carers if appropriate.

A member of Church personnel may seek to speak with parents/carers if a concern arises about their child; however, there may be circumstances in which it is not possible or appropriate to do so.

Adopted by the Select Vestry on *22nd September 2026*