Scottish Episcopal Church

Safeguarding Children and Young People in the Church

CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

1. Adopt the Policy Statement agreed by the General Synod on safeguarding the welfare of children and young people.

2. Plan the work of the organisation so as to minimise situations where the abuse of children and young people may occur.

3. Introduce a system whereby children and young people may talk with an independent person.

4. Apply agreed procedures for protecting children and young people to all paid staff and volunteers.

5. Give all paid staff and volunteers clear roles.

6. Use supervision of staff and volunteers as a means of protecting children and young people.

7. Treat all applicants for any position involving contact with children and young people in the same way.

8. Gain at least one reference, ideally from a person who has experience of the applicant’s paid work or volunteering, if any, with children or young people.

9. Explore all applicants’ experience of working or contact with children or young people in an interview before appointment.

10. Find out whether an applicant has any conviction for criminal offences against children or young people.

11. Make paid and voluntary appointments conditional on the successful completion of a probationary period.

12. Issue guidelines on how to deal with the disclosure, suspicion or discovery of abuse.

13. Train paid staff and volunteers, their Co-ordinators or Supervisors, and policy makers in the prevention of child abuse.

Adopted by General Synod in 1998