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|  **Policy Statement on Children, Young People in the Churches of St Bartholomew, St George and St Thomas, Westhoughton Parish.****This statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on: 15th May 2023**As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.* It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
* We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole Church.
* Our church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with Children and young people and to providing supervision.
* Our church is committed to following the policy and procedures published by the Diocese.
* The parish will adopt good practice guidelines.
* Each worker with children and young people must undertake diocesan Safeguarding training, know the guidelines and undertake to follow them. Each shall be given a copy of the Parish’s agreed procedures and good practice guidelines.
* As part of our commitment to children and young people, the PCC has appointed Joan O’Reilly to be the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator.
* Children and young people are an important part of our Church today.
* They have much to give as well as to receive.
* We will listen to them
* As we nurture them in worship, learning, and in community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of children and young people.
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| The church appoints Joan O’Reilly to represent the concerns and views of children and young people at our meetings and to outside bodies. Signed CAROL PHARAOHRole INCUMBENT, CHAIRChurch Wardens Ed McHale, Joan O’ReillyDated 15th May 2023 |