

Safeguarding in the Catholic Church in England and Wales

Safeguarding and the practice of love, honesty, respect, support and accountability are essential parts of our Catholic ministry and mission.

Every human being has a value which we acknowledge as coming directly from God's creation of male and female in his own image and likeness. We believe therefore that all people should be valued, supported and protected from harm and we recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable people towards whom the church has a special responsibility.

The Catholic Church and its individual members will undertake appropriate steps to maintain a safe environment for all, by practising fully and positively Christ's Ministry towards children, young people and adults and responding sensitively and compassionately to their needs in order to help keep them safe from harm. This is demonstrated by the provision of carefully planned activities for children, young people and adults, caring for those hurt by abuse and robustly managing and ministering to those who have caused harm.

National Catholic Safeguarding Commission Policy Statement February 2016

Ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are kept safe and know they are loved is at the very core of the Church's ministry. The work of safeguarding has to be seen within the overall mission of the Church. As she seeks to protect the vulnerable and weak, the Church needs to 'act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God'. (Micah 6:8). It is a ministry of love and healing and seeks justice for all.

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

The Bishop is responsible for Safeguarding issues in his Diocese. He delegates responsibility via the Trustees to the Safeguarding Commission. The Safeguarding Commission, together with the Bishop, appoint a Safeguarding Co-ordinator, and Safeguarding Officer. The Commission is accountable to the Bishop and advises him on policy implementation and best practice. The Co-ordinator and Officer report to the Commission and are accountable to the Bishop via the Commission.

The Church seeks to ensure that its parishes, religious congregations and lay associations of the faithful acting in the name of the Church have the confidence to enable vulnerable people to have peace of mind, knowing they will be cared for and loved by their Christian community. All churches, faith communities and lay associations that are working in the name of the Church with children and adults at risk are expected to have in place arrangements which include:

Procedures to respond to and report concerns and allegations

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police. Telephone 999 if a child or an adult is believed to be in immediate danger. If you need to contact the Safeguarding Representative for the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton you can do so here:

T: [01273 241203](tel:01273241203)

E: safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk

It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England and Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased.

If you are in any role within the Arundel and Brighton Diocese, you must refer allegations directly to the Safeguarding department, religious congregation, or directly to the police.

Sacred Heart's Parish Safeguarding Representative: [Catherine Heathcote](#)

T: [07854 539613](tel:07854539613)

E: parishsecretary.sacredheart@gmail.com or safeguardingSHwadhurst@gmail.com

1. Codes of conduct

The National Safeguarding Policies for the Catholic Church in England and Wales can be found [here](#)

2. Safer recruitment procedures

The Policy and Procedure for Safer Recruitment can be found [here](#)

3. Support and supervision of staff and volunteers

There are a wide range of "volunteer" roles within each parish, including Parish Safeguarding Representative, Extraordinary Minister of Communion, Catechist, Altar Server and Driver. You should speak to your Parish Safeguarding Representative and Parish Priest. You will have to complete a number of forms and discuss the reasons for wanting to be a volunteer. You will not be able to commence voluntary work until you have completed the application procedures and received a letter of appointment.

4. Training on safeguarding

Information regarding training requirements and resources can be found [here](#)

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA)

Visit the CSSA Website: <http://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/>

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