

Promoting a Safer Church Parish Policy Statement

last reviewed on 03 March 2023

The Parochial Church Council of St Hilda Warley Woods agreed on 23 March 2021, to adopt the House of Bishop's 'Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding policy statement for children, young people and adults' and practice guidance published by the Archbishops Council in 2017. The PCC's Safeguarding Procedures and Policies are based on The House of Bishops 'Parish Safeguarding Handbook' and The Church of England - Birmingham's procedures and guidance.

All forms of abuse are wrong and must stop

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a safer Church for all.

Our commitments:

1. Promoting a safer environment and culture
2. Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church
3. Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
4. Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
5. Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
6. Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

We will implement good safeguarding practice by ensuring:

- the welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is paramount;
- a leadership commitment, at all levels, to the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- our safeguarding policy is available to all church officers;
- a clear line of accountability within our church for work on safeguarding;
- clear reporting procedures to deal with safeguarding concerns and allegations;
- we report all concerns and allegations against church officers to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser and statutory agencies;
- clear roles for church officers;
- we have clear arrangements for support and/or supervision of church officers;
- all church officers working with or in contact with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults attend diocesan safeguarding training;

- our practice and services are informed by on- going learning, review and by the views of children, young people, families and vulnerable adults;
- safer recruitment procedures are in place;
- effective working with statutory and voluntary sector partners;
- we have publicly advertised arrangements for children, young people and vulnerable adults to be able to speak to an independent person, as required;
- our complaints procedures are well publicised;
- effective information sharing;
- good record keeping.

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to someone
please contact:**

Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator: 07946 147 703

Vicar: Jennifer Crewes: 07377 363 915

If you cannot contact the person above and someone is being harmed or is not safe and needs immediate help, dial 999, or contact social care services, or, for a child, the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000

Other useful contacts:

Bishop’s Safeguarding Adviser:	07324 993 844
Police:	101 or 999 (24 hours)
Sandwell Children’s Trust	0121 569 3100 (24 hours)
Sandwell Adults Social Care:	0121 569 2266 (Mon-Fri)
Sandwell Adults Social Care out of hours:	0121 569 2355 (out of hours)
Childline:	0800 1111 (24 hours)
Family Lives Helpline:	0808 800 2222 (24 hours)
Samaritans:	116 123 (24 hours)
National Domestic Abuse Helpline:	0808 200 0247 (24 hours)
Black Country Women’s Aid	0121 552 6448 (24 hours)
Men’s Domestic Violence Advice Line	0808 801 0327 (Mon-Fri 10.00-20.00)
LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline:	0300 999 5428 (Mon-Fri 10.00-17.00)
Stop it Now! Helpline	0808 1000 900 (24 hours)
Age UK Advice Line	0800 678 1602 (7 days 8.00-19.00)
Hourglass (formerly Action on Elder Abuse)	0808 808 8141 (24 hours)
Thirtyoneeight (formerly CCPAS):	0303 003 1111 (Mon-Fri 10.00-21.00)
National Association of People Abused in Childhood	0808 801 0331 (Mon-Thurs 10.00-21.00, Fri 10.00-18.00)
NSPCC Helpline	0808 800 5000 (Mon-Fri 8.00-20.00, Sat-Sun 9.00-18.00)