

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

115 Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 9LF

Parish Priest: Msgr. Malachy Keegan
Safeguarding Co-ordinator: Angela Osmond

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Policy Statement

Safeguarding in the Catholic Church in England and Wales

To be read and signed in conjunction with the Terms & Conditions for the Hire of the Parish Hall

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. We recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable people toward 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 and to practise fully and positively Christ's Ministry towards children, young people and adults at risk and to respond 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 ministering to and robustly managing those who have caused harm.

The Catholic Church of England and Wales the Bishops and Religious Congregational Leaders are committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church and affirm a 'One Church' approach¹ to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk through the promotion of a sustained culture of constant vigilance. The 'best interests' or 'paramount chief principle' which underpins and is enshrined in child and adult protection legislation shall be the primary consideration of all matters of safeguarding.

The Catholic Church has in place a National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC), which is an independent body working within the framework of the Church in England and Wales. It is mandated by the Conference of Bishops and Conference of Religious Congregations and has accountability across Dioceses and Religious Congregations to ensure that standards are met and policies are implemented.

Established in 2008, the NCSC sets the strategic direction of the Church's safeguarding policy for children, young people and adults at risk. It also monitors and audits the compliance of the Church with safeguarding procedures.

The Church authorities always report allegations of abuse to the statutory agencies to ensure that they are dealt with promptly and properly, and where appropriate, perpetrators are held to account. The Church will act in an open, transparent and accountable way in working in partnership with social care services, the Police, health agencies, probation services and other relevant agencies to safeguard children and adults at risk and assist in bringing to justice anyone who has committed an offence against a child or adult.

The Church seeks to ensure that its parishes and Religious Congregations have the confidence to enable vulnerable people to have peace of mind knowing they will be cared for and loved by their Christian community.

¹ The One Church approach refers to the commitment by the Church in England and Wales to using the same policies, procedures, standards and systems in relation to safeguarding.

The Diocese has its own Southwark Safeguarding Commission and the Parish has a Safeguarding Co-ordinator. It is responsibility of both the Diocese and Parish to implement good practice and policy and to ensure that arrangements are in place which include:

- Procedures to ascertain the suitability of those who volunteer to offer themselves for any ministry in the Church involving children, young people and/or vulnerable adults
- Training on safeguarding
- Procedures to respond to and report concerns
- Codes of conduct
- Safe recruitment procedures

All members of the Parish are expected to provide an atmosphere in which children, young people and vulnerable adults feel welcomed, affirmed and safe. They must also be aware of and accept the responsibility we all share for the safety and welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

If you are concerned and need to speak with someone, please contact our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Angela Osmond via the Parish Office, or speak with our Parish Priest, Msgr Malachy Keegan.

August 2018

DECLARATION

I/we acknowledge receipt of the:

1. Safeguarding Policy Statement
2. Policy for Safeguarding Children (attached)
3. Policy for Safeguarding Adults who may be vulnerable (attached)

And confirm that I/we have read and agree to abide thereof.

Signature _____ Dated _____

Print Name: _____

Signature _____ Dated _____

Print Name: _____

Policy for Safeguarding Children

We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- Protect children and young people from actual or potential harm
- Enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child or young person is paramount
- All children (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

We will endeavour to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people
- Fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with children and young people.

In our publicity:

- Sharing information about good safeguarding practice with children, parents and all those working with them.

When concerns are raised, following Diocesan procedures in:

- Responding without delay to every concern raised that a child or young person may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm; or about the behaviour of an adult or child.

Policy for Safeguarding Adults who may be vulnerable

We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- Ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse
- Protect adults who may be vulnerable from actual or potential harm
- Enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

We recognise that:

- Everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives
- All adults who may be vulnerable (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

We will endeavour to safeguard adults who may be vulnerable by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting adults who may be vulnerable
- Fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with adults who may be vulnerable and boundaries for acceptable behaviour.

In our publicity by:

- Sharing information about good safeguarding practice with adults who may be vulnerable, their carers and all those working with them.

When concerns are raised, following Diocesan procedures in:

- Responding without delay to every concern raised that an adult who may be vulnerable may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm, through abuse, harassment or bullying; or about the behaviour of an adult or child.