

### SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS

There are many people who may be able to help,  
IN AN EMERGENCY, CONTACT THE POLICE ON 999

Mary-Jane Crowley Head of Safeguarding Safeguarding Office	maryjanecrowley@rcaos.co.uk  safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk
Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency	admin@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Rep.	
Child Line	Telephone: 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk
Stop it Now Helpline	Telephone: 0808 1000 900 www.stopitnow.org.uk
Action on Elder Abuse	Telephone: 0808 808 8141 www.elderabuse.org.uk
Age UK	Telephone: 0800 169 6565 www.ageuk.org.uk
National Domestic Violence Helpline	Telephone: 0808 2000 247 www.womensaid.org.uk
Safe in Faith:  <a href="https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/safe-in-faith/">https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/safe-in-faith/</a>	



# SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY



## 18 MAY



RCAOS.ORG.UK/SAFEGUARDINGSUNDAY

"THE CHURCH, ENTRUSTED WITH PROCLAIMING THE  
GOOD NEWS, MUST BE A PLACE WHERE THE  
VULNERABLE ARE SAFE, THE WOUNDED ARE HEARD,  
AND ALL ARE WELCOMED WITH COMPASSION"

# WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding is a term that encapsulates the protection, safety & well-being of all, particularly the most vulnerable in our communities, to ensure that everyone is free from harm, abuse & neglect. It is a collective responsibility of individuals & the Church to prevent & respond to situations where people may be at risk. Within the Catholic Church, safeguarding is about creating safe environments, ensuring those that work with our children & vulnerable adults have gone through safer recruitment & to offer a compassionate response to all that have been harmed by abuse.

## WHAT IS SAFER RECRUITMENT AND WHY DO OUR CLERGY & VOLUNTEERS HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS PROCESS?

Safer recruitment is a set of practices to help make sure our Clergy, volunteers & staff are suitable to work with children & vulnerable adults. It's a vital part of creating a safe & positive environment, demonstrating our commitment to keeping everyone safe from harm. Safer Recruitment includes a suitability interview, references & a DBS check. All our volunteers are also asked to sign a code of conduct & complete safeguarding training. All volunteers working with children or vulnerable adults in the parish cannot start their role until Safer Recruitment & the DBS process has been completed. If volunteers are moving or adding an additional role, checks must be made that their current DBS covers any new role. DBS' are re-checked every three years. All our Clergy also hold a current DBS check.

## Types of ABUSE

This list is not exhaustive, abuse also includes Domestic Abuse, Spiritual Abuse, Psychological Abuse, Modern Slavery & more, please follow QR code for more details.



### Emotional/Verbal abuse

Non-physical behaviours such as threats, insults, screaming, constant monitoring, or isolation.



### Physical abuse

Any intentional use of physical touch to cause injury, fear, or assert control, such as hitting, shoving, & strangling.



### Financial abuse

Exerting power and control through access to finances, such as taking or withholding money from a partner, or prohibiting a partner from earning.



### Sexual abuse

Any sexual act that occurs without willing, active, or meaningful consent, such as unwanted touching, sexual assault (rape), & coercion.



### Stalking

Being repeatedly watched, followed, monitored or harassed, such as unwanted phone calls, texts, or unwanted gifts.



### Using technology

Digital abuse, such as online harassment, social media monitoring, digital sexual threats, GPS tracking, etc.

# DUTY TO REPORT

There is a duty to report all safeguarding concerns, allegations & disclosures to your Parish Priest, PSR or the central safeguarding team. Clergy, PSR's & volunteers must refer all concerns raised to the safeguarding office. Failure to do so, may lead to the abuse continuing, escalating or the complainant not reporting the matter again.

## PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE

Your Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR) is vital in supporting the embedding of a robust safeguarding culture within your Parish. They are an integral part of the safeguarding team & should be fully supported by your parish priest, parishioners, & the central safeguarding team. It is imperative that they are able to complete their role in a respectful environment, where the importance of their role is valued & recognised by all. If you have any concerns, please speak to them & if they ask you to complete safer recruitment, please assist them by completing the steps prior to your starting your role.

## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Our Clergy complete safeguarding training every two years & our PSR's receive training quarterly & in-person training annually. Our volunteers complete the CSSA national on-line training package, which is available for everyone to view. Please follow link & sign up [catholicsafeguarding.org.uk](https://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk)

## COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE TO THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN HARMED BY ABUSE

The Archdiocese of Southwark prioritises that those harmed by abuse, their family & friends, will receive a compassionate & prompt response if they wish to raise a concern & recognises the impact of abuse on individuals & their families. All those that represent the Church, must offer a compassionate response to anyone who discloses abuse. All disclosures must be referred to the central safeguarding team, so that appropriate support, referrals & signposting can take place. If you are approached by someone who has been harmed by abuse, ensure at the outset, they are aware that you must refer the information to the SGT.

## THE CENTRAL SAFEGUARDING TEAM (SGT)

The central safeguarding team has vast expertise & support our Clergy, Volunteers & staff to embed a safe & compassionate safeguarding service, responding to all concerns, disclosures & allegations raised. Please contact the team if you have any questions about safeguarding, wish to raise a concern or report abuse or are affected by the subject matter highlighted within this leaflet. The Team's contact details are on the rear of this leaflet, along with other organisations that offer support.