

# Safeguarding Policy

## Promoting a Safer Church

The Parochial Church Council of St Columba's

agreed to adopt all of the House of Bishop's safeguarding policy and practice guidance and The Church of England – Birmingham's procedures for their implementation on 5 March 2024

### 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 the above policy commitments and good safeguarding practice by ensuring:

- the creation of a safe and caring place for all;
- 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;
- we listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse and offer appropriate support to all those with lived experience of abuse;
- clear reporting procedures are displayed on church premises and our website (*where applicable*) to deal with safeguarding concerns and allegations;

- we notify all safeguarding concerns, including concerns and allegations against church officers, to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer;
- referrals to, and effective working with, statutory and voluntary sector partners in accordance with legislation and House of Bishop's requirements ;
- we have publicly advertised arrangements for children, young people and vulnerable adults to be able to speak to an independent person, as required;
- good record keeping and effective information sharing;
- we seek advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer about appropriate assessment, care and monitoring of any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties;
- a clear line of accountability within our church for work on safeguarding;
- our practice and activities are informed by on-going learning, review and by the views of children, young people, families and vulnerable adults;
- our complaints procedures are well publicised;
- there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of our PCC
- safer recruitment procedures are in place, including clear roles for church officers and Disclosure & Barring Service checks where a role is eligible;
- we have clear arrangements for support and/or supervision of church officers;
- all volunteers complete Church of England safeguarding training at the level appropriate for their role;

This policy will be clearly displayed on church premises and on our website (*where applicable*).

This policy and it's implementation will be reviewed at least annually by the PCC

This church appoints Deborah Scrivens as the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedure

*A church officer is anyone appointed or elected to a role on behalf of the church whether they are lay or ordained, paid or unpaid*

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to someone**

**please contact:**

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Deborah Scrivens, Parish Safeguarding Coordinator 07735 121 551  
Deborah.scrivens88@gmail.com  
Rev. Beccy Allen, Vicar 0121 354 5873  
Vicar.bannersgate@gmail.com

If you cannot contact the people above and someone is being harmed or is not safe and needs immediate help, dial 999, or contact social care services.

**Other useful contacts:**

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer	07342 993 844
NSPCC	help@NSPCC.org.uk
Childline	0800 1111
Family Lives Helpline	0808 800 2222
Samaritans	116 123
Hourglass - Elder Abuse	0808 808 8141
Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247
Men's Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 801 0327
LGBT+ Domestic Violence Helpline	0300 999 5428
National Association of People Abused in Childhood	0808 801 0331
Stop It Now! Helpline	0808 1000 900
Safe Spaces (when abuse was by a Church of England minister, volunteer or worker)	0300 0303 1056

*Local Authority Children's Social Care Services:*

0121 303 1888 (Birmingham)  
0121 569 3100 (Sandwell)  
0121 788 4300 (Solihull)  
0800 1313 126 (Staffordshire)  
01926 414144 (Warwickshire)  
01905 822666 (Worcestershire)

*Local Authority Adult Social Care Services:*

0121 303 1234 (Birmingham)  
0121 569 2266 (Sandwell)  
0121 704 8007 (Solihull)  
0345 604 2719 (Staffordshire)  
01926 412080 (Warwickshire)  
01905 768053 (Worcestershire)