

Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement

Promoting a Safer Church

The Parochial Church Council of St Chad's Sutton Coldfield

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 25 November 2025

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:

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;
- we strive to work in culturally sensitive ways that acknowledge and meet the needs of the diverse demographics that we serve;
- clear reporting procedures are displayed on church premises and our website (where applicable) to deal with safeguarding concerns and allegations;
- we notify 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;

All forms of abuse are wrong and must stop

- 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:

- 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 and whistleblowing 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.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed at least annually by the PCC.

This church appoints Judith Dovey as Parish Safeguarding Officer to work with the incumbent/ church wardens in a vacancy 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.

Reporting a Concern or Disclosure

If you need to report a safeguarding concern, please contact the people listed below

Judith Dovey (PSO) - judithdovey@yahoo.co.uk

Brian Scotcher (Church Warden) - brian.scotcher@hotmail.co.uk

Alf Beckett (Church Warden) alf.beckett@hotmail.com

If you cannot contact the persons named 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

(Updated – April 2026)

Approved by PCC on 19.5.26

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)

Steps for St Chads PCC in the event of a safeguarding concern

1. ***Listen.***
2. ***Record on proforma within 24 hours-PCC have an electronic version and a master paper version is in the office.***
3. ***Refer to vicar, CW and PSO (unless is involving one of them).***
4. ***If agreed-ring safeguarding team and then agree how dealt with confidentially between these people.***
5. ***Record outcome - for safeguarding file in vestry.***
6. ***Judith Dovey to retain brief list of safeguarding incidents on a spreadsheet password protected.***

Steps agreed 24 February 2026 at PC