

Guidelines for those working with children

The most important thing to remember is that if you have any concerns at all about any possible child abuse, contact immediately one of the following for guidance, in strict confidence, and do not speak to anyone else.

Parish Safeguarding Representative	Anne Kavanagh	07544 391882
Vicar of St Peter's & St Botolph's	Mark Wallace	07772 615378
Diocesan Safeguarding Administrator	Laura Tyler	01245 294438
Out of Hours Diocesan Helpline		01245 294444

Looking the other way is not an option

It is a joy and a responsibility to welcome children to our churches and to help them to grow and flourish. For this to happen, we must be a safe place. That is why safeguarding matters: these guidelines and our Safeguarding Policy are aimed at helping to ensure that nothing gets in the way of our children coming to Jesus.

What is child abuse?

As the Chelmsford Diocese's Safeguarding Manual explains, 'Children can be hurt in all sorts of ways. When a hurt is bad enough to be described as abuse, it will be because the harm was done deliberately as a result of neglect. Child abuse covers all the ways in which a child can be hurt: physical, emotional, sexual, intellectual, or spiritual. It also includes the effect of watching others being abused, as it happens when parents abuse each other. Child abuse is a betrayal of trust, a misuse of power, and a failure of the responsibility of an adult to a child. Abuse can damage every aspect of a child's well-being. The harm it causes may be life-long.'

What do we do to address the risk of child abuse?

- The PCC has adopted a Safeguarding Policy – see overleaf.
- We implement the recommendations of the Chelmsford Diocese's Safeguarding Manual and Resources. Copies are available in the Vestry, in the Parish Office, and on the Diocesan website if you would like further information.
- We have appointed Anne Kavanagh to be our Parish Safeguarding Representative and Named Person for managing applications to the Disclosure and Barring Service ('DBS' and formerly called CRB checking).
- All those responsible for working with children must have up-to-date DBS checks.
- All our children's workers have been given a copy of our Safeguarding Policy, these Guidelines and the Diocese's Action Card 'Looking the other way is not an option'.
- All activities involving children must be planned systematically, with the approval of the PCC and an appropriate risk assessment carried out.
- Care is exercised in recruiting staff and volunteers to work with children and child protection training is provided as appropriate.

What can you do?

Be alert, report *immediately* anything which disturbs you, *don't* speak to anyone else and co-operate in the steps we take to help ensure the safety of our children. Thank you.

*Mrs Anne Kavanagh, Parish Safeguarding Representative
Rev Mark Wallace, the Colchester Town Centre Vicar*

St Peter's, Colchester — Safeguarding Policy

The Parochial Church Council of St Peter's endorses the principles of the House of Bishops' Policy for Safeguarding Children set out below and seek to implement these principles by complying with the Diocese of Chelmsford's Safeguarding Manual.

Adopted by the PCC of St Peter's Church at its meeting on 9th June 2018.

Principles of the House of Bishops' Policy for Safeguarding Children

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Principles

We are committed to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him or her an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.