

Safeguarding – Code of Conduct

Everyone is welcome here



“Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from their creation in God’s own image and likeness. Christians have a duty to value, understand and respect the rights of children and adults as people of faith in the life of the church, and to protect them from harm.” Bristol Diocese 2018

**Safeguarding is
Everyone’s
Responsibility**

**The Gauzebrook Group of churches seeks to be a community of care for all
Together . . .
we create a safe space
for everyone to be treated
with compassion and respect**

Safeguarding in Church

The Church is an all age community seeking to make space and extend a gospel welcome to all – all ages, all abilities, all backgrounds.

The aim of safeguarding within the Church is to create safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

Those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults (whether paid or volunteers) will have role descriptions and codes of conduct which they agree to abide by. Groups and activities for children, young people and vulnerable adults will have been organised and risk assessed according to the Gauzebrook Benefice Safeguarding policy.

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However, there will be occasions when children, young people, and vulnerable adults will be part of the all age community of the church: before and after services, at family and all age services and social events which are open to all the church family and visitors. At these times we need to give careful consideration to what it means to provide a safe environment. We do not want anyone placed in a vulnerable situation where a potential abuser might take advantage, or where there is the risk of allegations being made.

Therefore it is important that **every member** of our congregation understands their responsibilities with regard to safeguarding, educates themselves and owns the Benefice Safeguarding Policy. The following code of conduct is to ensure we all behave in a manner consistent with our Christian values.

I WILL:

- ✓ Help to provide a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment for everyone
- ✓ Treat everyone with respect and dignity
- ✓ Be mindful of my behaviour, actions, language and relationships, especially with children, young people and vulnerable adults
- ✓ Take responsibility for ensuring I am accountable and do not place myself in positions where there is a risk of allegations being made
- ✓ Report any suspicions or safeguarding concerns as laid out in the church policy

I WILL NOT:

- Allow allegations/suspected abuse/risk of harm or disclosures to go unreported to the Benefice Safeguarding Officer
- Post photos/videos of children on social media without checking with their parents/guardians
- Engage in behaviour that is intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade anyone
- Act in a way that can be perceived as threatening or intrusive
- Make sarcastic, insensitive, derogatory or sexually suggestive comments/gestures to anyone
- Hit or physically assault anyone – this includes refraining from physical punishment or discipline of children

DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS?

We **all** have a duty to:

- Be alert to what abuse means and take seriously what we are told
- Think about what we see and ask if it is acceptable practice
- Think about the safety of the person we suspect is being mistreated as well as our own safety
- Report suspected acts of abuse
- Contact the emergency services if there is a serious risk or harm or threat to life

Any concerns or breaches of this code should be reported to the Benefice Safeguarding Officer: Alison Reed, she can be contacted by email alisonreed51@yahoo.com or by phoning 01666 837661.