



CENTRAL CHURCH WARRINGTON SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The following policy was agreed at the Trustees Meeting held on 20th November 2024 and updated with the information of the new Safeguarding Officer on 23rd June 2025.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Church will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO) to work with the Pastor and the Trustees to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the church.
- Display in church premises and on the church website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following the House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor 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.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually, in accordance with House of Bishops guidance ("Parish Safeguarding Handbook - Promoting a Safer Church", last revised in 2019).
- Consult and inform the DSA as concerns or questions arise, and complete Diocesan Safeguarding training as we required.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Beth Hanson as the CSO: safeguarding@centralchurchwarrington.co.uk

Leader – Mark Cooper

On behalf of the Trustees – Steve James

Date: 20 November 2024

Appendix 1: **Specific practice within our context**

These are decisions made, or processes followed, that are specific to our context and we note them here for clarity and reference. They seek to ensure that our procedures are in accordance with the Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

1. **References.** References are required for anyone working with children and vulnerable adults in a leadership capacity (agreed April 2023).
2. **Ratios.** Our ratios of DBS'd adults-children follow Church of England guidance, which uses Ofsted ratios as 'best practice'. The Sunday Club register used each week includes this information:

Child's Age	Number of adults	Number of children
0-2	1	3
2-3	1	4
4-8	1	6
9-12	1	8
13-18	1	10

3. **Register.** Kept in a locked place (currently filing cabinet of Mark's study and will be moved to the Buckley Street safe once we move premises).
4. **Informal childcare arrangements.** These cannot be organised by us as an external party and therefore are not part of our safeguarding policy (discussed September 2024).