

## Key Definitions

Child - anyone who has not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday

Vulnerable adult – a person who is not able to protect themselves from significant harm due to a substantial functional, mental, or physical impairment. The vulnerability may not be visible and can be permanent or temporary.

Abuse - this takes many forms, including physical, sexual, domestic, emotional, financial, spiritual, and neglect. Abuse can take place in person or via letters, telephone or online. It includes child to child bullying.

**This leaflet is a supplement to Trinity's Safeguarding policy.** <https://trinityearley.co.uk/safeguarding-children-and-vulnerable-adults-policy/>

**The policy remains the authoritative document.**

Dianne Berry December 2024



## Safeguarding: What you need to know

Safeguarding is about protecting the safety, wellbeing, and human rights of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. More broadly, it is about creating a nurturing and caring environment and culture within Trinity that enables all children, young people, and adults to flourish. It is central to Trinity's mission to value every person as part of God's creation. We all have a collective responsibility to promote the welfare of others, act in a way which protects them, and encourages them to speak up if they have any concerns about themselves or others.

## Key Contacts

Safeguarding Lead - Dianne Berry

Safeguarding Deputy - Sandra Koo

Safeguarding Contact - [safeguarding@trinityearley.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@trinityearley.org.uk)

## **So how do we do this?**

- Treat everyone in the Church with respect and dignity, and set a positive example to others.
- Respect differences between us, including in culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and faith.
- Appropriately challenge unacceptable behaviours, including those involving prejudice or discrimination.
- Ensure that our spoken, written, and body language is appropriate and respectful.
- Respect personal space and privacy, and do not have inappropriate physical contact with others.
- Ensure that children, young people, vulnerable adults, and ourselves are not put in a compromising or vulnerable position.
- Where possible, ensure that another adult is present, or within sight or hearing, of any activity involving children, young people, or vulnerable adults.
- Ensure that all children, young people, and vulnerable adults know who to talk to if they have any concerns.
- Care pastorally for sufferers of abuse and other people who have been affected.

## **What to do if you have concerns about others**

- Respond quickly – do not keep your concerns to yourself.
- Speak to an appropriate person as soon as possible, i.e. the Vicar, Associate Vicar/ Pastor, or Safeguarding Lead. If this cannot be done in person, email [safeguarding@trinityearley.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@trinityearley.org.uk)

- If you feel an incident is sufficiently serious, also contact the Police.
- Do not share your concerns with others. Maintain confidentiality.

## **What to do if a child, young person, or vulnerable adult tells you that they have been abused or treated inappropriately?**

- Listen carefully and reassure them that you are listening.
- Do not pass judgement or express shock (verbally or via your body language) at what you are being told.
- Do not overly question them. Only use questions for essential clarification.
- Assure them that they are not to blame, and they have done the right thing by telling you.
- Tell them what you are going to do next.
- Do not promise confidentiality but let them know that only people who need to know (the Vicar, Safeguarding Lead or the Police) will be told.
- As soon as possible make careful notes of what you have been told, including dates and times, and keep a copy.
- Inform the Vicar, Associate Pastor, or the Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.
- Do not share the information with anyone else, or contact the person against whom the allegations were made.