

Safeguarding in St. Theresa's: a brief guide

St. Theresa of Lisieux is a Catholic Church and Parish in England and Wales.

We recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable adults.

We are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being.

We will work with parents/carers/guardians in order to do this.

We recognise each person as a gift from God.

All our personnel (including clergy, religious, staff and volunteers) have a responsibility to safeguard our children and vulnerable adults and we will support their best interests and guard against abuse.

Message from Parish Priest

The safeguarding of our children and vulnerable adults in our parish is a priority. We are committed to providing a safe environment for the spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of our vulnerable members. We actively promote best practice and seek to ensure that our children and vulnerable adults feel safe, are safe and will be safe.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is creating safe environments for children and vulnerable adults to ensure they are free from all forms of abuse.

How we safeguard in St. Theresa's

- ✓ We have a Parish safeguarding representative
- ✓ We have clear policies, procedures and guidelines
- ✓ We have trained safeguarding personnel
- ✓ We practice safer recruitment
- ✓ We carry out police vetting
- ✓ We have children friendly posters
- ✓ We have information leaflets for parents/carers/guardians
- ✓ We assist external agencies to investigate and prosecute offences.

Who is vulnerable?

- Anyone under the age of 18
- Adults with e.g. learning difficulties are ill: physically, mentally have debilitating issues have mobility issues temporary susceptibility
- People can move in and out of vulnerability at different stages in their lives.

Worried? About your own safety or the safety of others?

Suspect? Abuse – physical, emotional neglect, sexual?

Not sure?

TELL

To assist us in being a Safe Church you can take PART in helping us keep our vulnerable members safe:

- **Proactive:** Familiarise yourself with safeguarding through our policies, statements and even training. (you are welcome to attend a training session).
- **Awareness:** Be vigilant and alert to what you see or hear.
- **Responsibility:** Looking away is not an option.
- **Tell:** Nothing is too trivial to tell the Parish Safeguarding Representative or one of our trusted adults.