

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

Do you Suspect a Safeguarding
Concern?

Abuse – physical, emotional,
neglect, sexual?

Not sure?

TELL

07752 448425

Prayer for Safeguarding

Lord Jesus,

We praise you for calling us to the service
of others.

We pray for a generosity of spirit to ensure
the vulnerable are protected.

We pray for a compassionate heart so that
we will reach out to those who are wound-
ed by abuse.

We pray for courage and determination as
we seek the safety of everyone in our par-
ish community.

We dedicate ourselves to this work of ser-
vice and pray that you will help us to do
your will at all times and in all places.

Amen



**Making our Church
Safe for All**

*St. Theresa of Lisieux
Catholic Church
High Lane
Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex
CM24 8LQ*

St. Theresa of Lisieux

Catholic Church

Stansted Mountfitchet

Safeguarding Guide for

VISITORS, HIRERS, PARISH
CENTRE USERS,
VOLUNTEERS and
PARISHIONERS

July 2023

**Safeguarding Parish
representative:**

Bernadette Horton

Parish Safeguarding
Number:

07752 448425

Safeguarding Procedures

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

For the purposes of this leaflet, a child, young person or vulnerable adult is referred to as a VP.

What to do if a child, young person or adult discloses information or you suspect something is wrong. Remember:

Note: ONLY TRAINED INVESTIGATORS MAY

QUESTION THE VP

- Keep calm. Reassure and do not over react
- Listening carefully and patiently
- Accept what is said without judgement
- Talk positively and reassure the person
- Do not show revulsion or distress
- Reassure the VP that they have done the right thing
- Do not promise you can keep a secret. Let the VP know that you will have to tell someone who can help.
- Do not question. Try to limit your involvement to listening.
- You may ask is there anything else you would like to tell me

Whilst this may be an alarming situation to find yourself in, it is important not to let the moment pass—for every child that does finally disclose information, evidence shows that they have usually tried up to 12 times before.

Keep Yourself Safe:

- Be in view of others—do not take the VP to a hidden area
- Do not sit too near to the VP and do not touch them, even through comfort actions. e.g. an arm around their shoulder
- Keep yourself safe—the VP may interpret your interactions differently than you intended.

Next Actions:

- Record carefully what the VP has said, using their words use the Form CM1—this is on both safeguarding boards
- Make a note of the date and time and sign your notes.
- Do not discuss the disclosure with anyone else other than the Parish Safeguarding Representative or Diocesan Safeguarding Co-Ordinator or the Police or Social Services
- Contact the Safeguarding Representative immediately on the Safeguarding number.
- **If you think the VP is at immediate risk of harm, telephone the police on 999 or Social Services on 0345 603 7627 (out of hours: 0345 606 1212).**
- **If you unsure about your concerns: please telephone the Parish Safeguarding Line**

Types of Harm:

Physical: when a vulnerable person is deliberately hurt or injured.

Sexual: a vulnerable person may be forced, influenced or encouraged to take part in sexual activity. This can be physical or non-physical e.g. being made to look at inappropriate images.

Emotional: a vulnerable person may be made to feel worthless, frightened, unloved. This may be through threats, withdrawal of familiar things; shouting; seeing parents or visitors to the home fighting, or using violence.

Neglect: A vulnerable person may display a lack of care; poor hygiene; poor diet; inappropriate or inadequate clothing; lack of necessary medical attention; appropriate support.

Other Forms: Psychological; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); Grooming; Radicalisation; Fabricated or Induced illness; Financial; On-line; Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE); Bully; Cyberbullying; Sexting;

St. Theresa of Lisieux

Safeguarding Statement

St. Theresa of Lisieux is a Catholic Church 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.

Abuse can happen to anyone regardless of gender, culture, religion, status, social background, ability.

Be alert

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).
- ⇒ 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 one of our safeguarders.

As a hirer or group leader you have responsibility and accountability for ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected at all times. This means taking all reasonable steps to prevent harm, injury, illness, loss or damage occurring. VP welfare during your activity is your responsibility .