

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS by the Parochial Church Councils of Great and Little Gransden

It is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Councils and those to whom they delegate responsibility, to protect children (under 18 years of age) and vulnerable adults from physical, emotional, domestic, spiritual and sexual abuse.

We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of all people and especially all who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of the church, and have adopted The House of Bishop's policy – 'Promoting a Safer Church'.

1. In fulfilling our responsibilities in safeguarding, we seek to encourage everyone within our church community to nurture a culture in which everyone is included, respected, listened to and taken seriously, so that there can be safe and "informed vigilance" where the welfare of all vulnerable people is paramount.
2. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust, ensuring our approach is informed by up-to-date policies and procedures from local and national authorities.
3. We recognise our responsibility to always respond to and report any suspected cases of abuse to the relevant statutory authorities without delay; and will seek the advice of, and cooperate with, all relevant agencies and do our best to ensure that those making an allegation, and those against whom an allegation is made, are supported appropriately.
4. We will support appropriately those who may pose a risk to children or vulnerable adults, through maintaining confidential safeguarding agreements overseen in partnership with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.
5. We commit to the safe recruitment and appointment of leaders and workers to whom responsibility is delegated for working with children and / or vulnerable adults.
6. All church groups will have appropriate levels of leadership and supervision; all leaders and workers in positions of responsibility working regularly or substantially with children and / or vulnerable adults will be given appropriate safeguarding support and training.
7. This policy is reviewed at least annually.

Rev'd Rachel Blanchflower
Priest in Charge

07824 380479

Phillip George
Safeguarding Co-ordinator
March 2019

01767 677553

CHILDLINE for children and young people - **0800 1111**
NSPCC for adults concerned about a child - **0808 800 5000**
24-hour National Domestic Violence helpline - 0808 2000 247
<http://www.childline.org.uk/>

How to react if a child talks to you about abuse

- It is important to reassure a child or adult that it is right to talk about it, and that you will take everything they say seriously.

The following are suggestions, which may be helpful in such circumstances.

General points

- Reassure the child that you are taking what is being said to you very seriously.
- Keep calm.
- Look at the child directly.
- Do not prejudge anything.
- Tell the child you will need to tell someone else - do not promise confidentiality.
- Whatever a child may have done, it is not to blame for the abuse.
- Be aware the child may have been threatened, intimidated or made to promise secrecy.
- Never push for more information than is immediately given.
- Hear the allegation clearly, make a written note of it afterwards,

Helpful things to say

- "Thank you for telling me this."
- "I will have to share this with someone else who can help."
- "You needn't tell me any more about it. I have understood what you are telling me."
- "I am glad you have told me."

Avoid saying

- "Why didn't you tell anyone before?"
- "I can't believe it."
- "Are you sure this is true?"
- "Why, how, when, who, where?"
- "Don't tell anyone else."
- "This is dreadful."

Concluding the conversation

- Reassure the child that it has done the right thing to tell you.
- You are taking what has been said very seriously.
- You will tell someone who can help, straight away.
- They are not to worry or feel they have done anything wrong.

It is helpful to note if the child has told anyone else. The point of the conversation is to establish a basic account of the allegation. You do not have to believe it or disbelieve it, just note it accurately, and then refer the case onward correctly.

What to do if abuse is discovered suspected or disclosed.

- Immediately contact:

Priest in Charge	-	The Revd Rachel Blanchflower	07824 380479 or
The Safeguarding co-ordinator	-	Phillip George	01767 677553 or
The Diocesan Safeguarding Officer	-	Sarah King	01353 652735

- Make a written log of everything that has happened
- If a person is in danger – call the police