

Homewood Road United Reformed Church

Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The following statement has been agreed by the Leadership of Homewood Road United Reformed Church, St Albans.

The Church is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk, and to ensuring their well-being.

At Homewood Road United Reformed Church we:

- believe that all children and adults at risk should know that they are valued within the church and safely enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the church
- respect the personal dignity and rights of children and adults at risk and will ensure that our policies and procedures reflect this
- recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children under 18 years of age
- recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, financial, discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults at risk
- recognise that domestic violence affects both adults and children and believe that domestic violence in all its forms is unacceptable and inconsistent with any Christian way of living
- will report any abuse of children or adults at risk that we discover or suspect
- will contact the police as a matter of urgency where an allegation suggests a criminal offence has been committed
- recognise that Children's Services has a responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child, and that Adult Services do so for adults at risk
- acknowledge that the Local Authority Officers (LADO) have responsibility for dealing with all allegations and concerns about people working with children, whether paid or voluntary workers, lay or ordained
- recognise that safeguarding is a whole church responsibility.

We are committed to:

1. The establishment of a loving environment which is safe and caring, and where there is an informed vigilance about the dangers of abuse.
2. Following the relevant legislation, statutory, denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk.
3. Ensuring that we keep up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
4. Building constructive links with the relevant Voluntary and Statutory Authorities.
5. Taking all reasonable steps to ensure that as a church, everyone works within the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policies.
6. Supporting the safeguarding Coordinator and Deputy in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and adults at risk.
7. Following safer recruitment principles in the appointment and selection of all those who work with children and adults at risk, be they volunteer or paid staff, lay or ordained.

8. Supporting, supervising, resourcing and training all those who undertake work with children and adults at risk.
9. Ensuring that the children and adults we have contact with know that they are valued and feel empowered to tell if they are suffering harm.
10. Reporting any abuse of children or adults at risk that we discover or suspect.

Contact Details:

Police: 01707 354000

HCC Adult Care Services: 0300 1234040

HCC Children's Services: 0300 1234040

Head of Child Protection: Roger Carruthers: 01992 556937

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): 01992 555420

North Thames Synod Safeguarding Officer: The Rev'd Derek Lingfield, Mobile: 07803 953483

email: safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Name: **(Safeguarding Coordinator) MRS SUSAN F GRAY**

Tel: 01438 712653

Signed:

Date:

Name: **(Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator) Mrs HELEN F GRIFFITHS**

Tel: 01727 840885

Signed:

Date: