

Parish of Heswall

Diocese of Chester

Safeguarding Statement

As part of the Diocese of Chester in the Church of England, the Parish of Heswall follows the House of Bishops' Policy and Practice Guidance, published by the Church of England. We take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously and any individual who is concerned about a matter in this respect is encouraged to come forward. Depending on the nature and severity of the concern, various means of contact are available:

- email to safeguarding@heswallparish.co.uk
- speak to a member of the clergy, the leader of a particular activity or a churchwarden
- phone the Parish Safeguarding Officer, currently Helen Page on 07762-167820
- phone the Diocesan helpline during office hours on 01928-718834
- contact the Church's out of hours partner organisation, *Thirtyone:eight*, on 0303 0031111
- phone the police on 999

Our policy and working procedures are based on the document:

[Safeguarding e-manual | The Church of England](#), as of 21 January 2024. This is regularly reviewed and updated and in due course will incorporate online the following documents:

Practice guidance:

1. Parish Safeguarding Handbook: [Layout 1 \(churchofengland.org\)](#)
2. Safer Environment and Activities: [safer-environment-and-activities-oct19_0.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](#)
3. Code of Safer Working Practice: [code-of-safer-working-practice-02.07.2021.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](#)

Policy Statements:

4. Promoting a Safer Church; House of Bishops policy statement (2017): [safer \(churchofengland.org\)](#)
5. Protecting All God's Children (safeguarding policy for children and young people, 4th edition, 2010): [Protecting all God's-NEW:Protecting all God's/text \(churchofengland.org\)](#)
6. Promoting a Safe Church (safeguarding policy for adults, 2006): [15882 Prelims \(churchofengland.org\)](#)

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Our Policy commitments (from page 18 of the document [*Promoting a Safer Church: House of Bishops policy statement \(2017\)*](#)) are:

- a. Promoting a safer environment and culture
- b. Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church
- c. Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- d. Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- e. Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- f. Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

These are based on the foundations (from page 10 of the same document) of:

- the Gospel
- Human rights and the law
- Core principles
- Good safeguarding practice
- Learning from the past

In summary and adapted from page ix of

[*Promoting a Safe Church \(safeguarding policy for adults, 2006\)*](#):

- we are committed to respectful pastoral ministry to all people within our church community
- we are committed within our church community to the safeguarding and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people
- we will carefully select and train all those with any pastoral responsibility within the Church, including the use of Criminal Records Bureau disclosures, where legal or appropriate
- we will respond without delay to any complaint made that anyone for whom we were responsible has been harmed, cooperating with the police and/or the local authority in any investigation
- we will seek to offer informed pastoral care to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate healing ministry
- we will challenge any abuse of power by anyone in a position of trust
- we will care for and supervise any member of our church community known to have offended against a vulnerable person

Helen Page, Parish Safeguarding Officer

28 April 2026