

## Pusey House, Oxford Safeguarding Policy

Although Pusey House undertakes no direct work with children in the absence of their careers, or with groups of vulnerable adults - children and adults dependant on others for their care may attend worship or other activities with their carers who remain responsible for them at all times, and residents may volunteer at other projects, including youth and schools work, winter night shelters and homelessness charities - safeguarding remains a priority for the Chapter, and the Governing Body, and careful attention is paid to our moral responsibilities, to statutory requirements and to good practice.

The following policy was agreed at the Governing Body meeting held on 18/2/23

1. We are committed to:
  - The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults
  - The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
  - The establishing of a safe, caring community which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.
2. We will carefully select and train all those with any relevant responsibility within Pusey House, including volunteers and all resident here, in line with safer recruitment principles\*, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records checks.
3. We will respond promptly to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation and we will have a clear reporting procedure in place.
4. We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him or her an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
5. We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
6. We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our congregation known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
7. In all these principles we will follow statute, guidance and recognised good practice\*.
8. We will advise the Diocese of Oxford which Registered Body we use to process applications for Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records checks. At the time of writing DBS checks are processed by the Diocese.
9. In the event of receiving a Disclosure which is 'blemished' or 'positive', we will consult an External Safeguarding Advisor - Erica Hegg, or the current Oxford Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser - before presenting his report to our Risk Assessment Panel.
10. We will review this policy annually, check that our policies are up to date, and supply a copy of the updated policy statement to the Churches' Agency for Safeguarding.

\* See the documents “A Safer Church” and “The Parish Safeguarding Handbook” which represent the policy for Safeguarding Children in the Church of England, and the House’s Volunteer Policy for details.

Our Governor with special responsibility for Safeguarding is:

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Our Safeguarding Officer is:

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*Revised January 2023*