

SAFEGUARDING at Old Saint Paul's

Old Saint Paul's strives to be a safe place for all people to come and worship.

We believe that all children and adults regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse, neglect or exploitation.

We seek to ensure everyone is valued, listened to and respected.

Old Saint Paul's follows the [guidelines of the Scottish Episcopal Church for safeguarding](#) the welfare of our children (anyone under the age of 18) and vulnerable adults as well as the Church's procedures for good practice.

It is important to note that the safeguarding message is for everyone in our church.

Old Saint Paul's has adopted the following policy statement for Child Protection:

“The Scottish Episcopal Church recognises the special status of children and young people. Because of their vulnerability, children and young people will be awarded special protection. They are to be respected as a person in their own right, created and loved by God. We therefore, commit ourselves to take all steps within our power to keep children and young people safe from physical, sexual and emotional harm”

Old Saint Paul's has adopted the following policy statement for Vulnerable Adults:

“The Scottish Episcopal Church recognises the special status of all vulnerable people, particularly those who, because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness, infirmity or ageing, are unable to protect themselves from abuse, or more vulnerable to being abused than persons who are not so affected. Because of their vulnerability, such people will be awarded special protection. They are to be respected as persons in their own right, created and loved by God. We, therefore commit ourselves to take all steps within our power to keep vulnerable people safe from harm and from an abuse of trust.”

What we will do to keep children and vulnerable people safe and how we will respond to concerns:

We have appointed a Protection of Vulnerable Groups Coordinator for safeguarding purposes who has been approved by the Bishop. The General Synod office and Diocesan Protection Officer are also aware of these arrangements.

The Scottish Episcopal Church “Code of Good Conduct” is displayed prominently on a noticeboard in both the church and the church hall together with contact information for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Coordinator, and some useful telephone numbers to use in the case of an emergency along with Childline contact information.

Safeguarding is on the agenda for meetings of the Vestry. The Protection of Vulnerable Groups Coordinator provides a written report for the church AGM and attends some of the Vestry meetings.

As appropriate, paid staff and volunteers are members of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups scheme.

If a person were to disclose to anyone that they have been subjected to any form of abuse then the Scottish Episcopal Church guidelines should be followed to handle the situation appropriately, allowing the person to speak without interruption, accepting what is said and advising the person that they must pass on this information.

This information will then be passed on to the PVG Coordinator, a member of the Clergy team, or, in the case of a child, one of the crèche or Sunday school team.

It may then be shared with the Provincial Child Protection Officer, Police Scotland and / or Social Services, as appropriate.

In the case of a child, the parent or guardian should also be notified at this stage. This should always take place as soon as possible.

We share information confidentially and accurately and keep all records in a secure place.

Specific arrangements for work with children and young people (under 18)

We recruit staff and volunteers carefully ensuring that the necessary Protection of Vulnerable Groups scheme membership safeguarding checks are carried out. These checks are carried out for those who work with children in our Sunday School and Crèche, as well as those who supervise children in the Choir and Serving team.

A minimum of two adults will be in attendance at all times when children are in our Sunday School or Crèche, or other activities.

A risk assessment is carried out prior to all outings for children and young people.

Specific arrangements for work with Vulnerable Adults

We follow the same procedures with regard to vulnerable adults. Should it come to our attention that an adult has been subjected to any form of abuse, the information will, as appropriate and necessary, be passed on to the Provincial Officer, Police Scotland and Social Services.

Norma Walker (PVG Coordinator)
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