



St Francis Church, Valley Park, Chandlers Ford

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The following policy statement was agreed at the St Francis Church Council (CC) meeting held on 11th October 2023.

This Church Council has adopted the Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance. In particular our church is committed to:

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

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Safeguarding Officer to work with the incumbent and the CC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager (DSM) and/or statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Following advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager, support and manage the safe involvement of any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works in a paid or voluntary capacity or holds responsibility within this church community will agree to abide by this policy; the Church of England safeguarding policies and practice guidance; and the procedures/guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Linda King as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent - Rev Dr Sarah McClelland

Churchwardens - Fiona Grove; Peter Rhodes

Signed on behalf of CC

(Incumbent)

Date 11th October 2023

Contact details and further information

Local contacts

Tel: 023 8027 1152 (24hr Answer phone)

Vicar: Rev'd. Dr. Sarah McClelland: rev@sfvp.org.uk

Parish Administrator: admin@sfvp.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Linda King: safeguarding@sfvp.org.uk

Website: www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisvp>

Diocesan Contact details

Jackie Rowlands: Diocesan Safeguarding Manager Tel: 01962 737317 (24hours)

Siona Jeffrey: Diocesan Safeguarding Administrator Tel: 01962 737347

Diocesan Office, Old Alresford Place, Alresford, SO24 9DH

safeguarding@winchester.anglican.org

**The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults
'Promoting a Safer Church'.**

**Further information on detailed policies and procedures can be found in the
Parish Safeguarding Handbook**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf>

A copy of the Handbook is in the church office.

Other specialist helplines and services:

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000) (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are worried about a child.

Child-line: [0800 1111](tel:08001111) (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are a child or young person and are worried about anything.

National Domestic Violence Helpline: [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247) (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are experiencing domestic abuse.

Samaritans Helpline: 116 123 (open 24 hours). Phone if you feel you are struggling to cope and need someone to talk to.

Action on Elder Abuse Helpline: [080 8808 8141](tel:08088088141) (free phone Monday to Friday 9-5pm).

National Rape Crisis Helpline: [0808 802 9999](tel:08088029999) and is open every day from 12-2.30pm and 7-9.30pm.

The National Safeguarding Team: safeguarding@churchofengland.org