

Safeguarding Policy Statement

As part of the Christian Church living in the spirit of the Gospel, the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham aims to protect and care for all those in need. It is the responsibility of everyone to **Recognise, Respond, Record** and **Report** all potential safeguarding information. There is a Diocesan Safeguarding Team who are able to respond in a professional manner in line with best practice.

In accordance with the national Church of England's Safeguarding Policy, the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham 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.
- Ensuring that its volunteers, clergy, advisers and lay people achieve the standards laid down in national safeguarding practice guidance.
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for those with lived experience of trauma, ensuring that their data is stored securely and confidentially retained in line with UK GDPR.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse.
- Responding to those that may pose a risk to others to ensure that they and all members of the church community are safeguarded.
- Supporting each local Safeguarding Officer to implement national policies and practice guidance.
- Working in partnership with statutory agencies and others involved in the development and delivery of safeguarding policy and practice to ensure a seamless service.
- Applying independent scrutiny, challenge, and assurance through the Diocese Safeguarding Advisory Panel.

The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham will:

- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Work alongside those with lived experience of trauma to inform the services we provide.
- Keep those with whom we are working informed of the processes.
- Refer all safeguarding concerns to the statutory agencies where the criteria are met.
- Promote the national procedures and practice guidance as best practice.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, procedures and practices annually.

Signed:



Date: October 2022

Bishop Paul Williams

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