

# **ST. DYFRIG'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

The Catholic parish of St. Dyfrig's, Treforest, is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of the children, within our church communities, and also to encouraging an environment where all peoples and especially those who may be vulnerable are able to worship and pursue their faith with encouragement and in safety. As such, the policies and procedures related to Safeguarding by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales and adopted by the Archdiocese of Cardiff are put into practice in this parish.

It is the policy of St. Dyfrig's to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from physical, emotional or sexual abuse and to provide a safe environment for them.

This commitment flows from the fact that we are all made in the image of God and the Church's common belief in the dignity and uniqueness of every human life.

We start from the principle that each child, young person or vulnerable adult has a right to expect the highest level of care and protection, love, encouragement and respect that we can give.

It is our aim to provide an environment that supports and nurtures children, young people and vulnerable adults so that they may develop and mature as safe from harm as possible.

We abhor the abuse, which some children are subjected to, whether it is physical, emotional, sexual or through neglect. We are committed to protect children and will liaise closely with statutory agencies to ensure that any allegations of abuse that may occur are promptly and properly dealt with, victims supported and perpetrators held to account.

We are aware that not all risk to children can be removed but together it is our intention to minimize such risks and create a safe environment that supports and nurtures children so that they may develop and mature physically, emotionally, psychologically and spiritually so as to reach their full potential.

These Safeguarding Procedures are also intended to assist clergy, parish workers and volunteers in identifying ways in which they can safeguard the best interests of children, young people and vulnerable adults in their care, and their own best interests as well.

## **VULNERABLE ADULT**

A "Vulnerable Adult" is a person aged 18 or over who is or may be, by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, unable to take care of him or herself and unable to protect him or herself against "significant harm" or "exploitation".

## **THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Clergy Advisor for Safeguarding {Canon Peter Collins} and the Safeguarding Coordinator {Chris Mullane} are responsible for the planning and monitoring of all safeguarding aspects for children and vulnerable adults within the Archdiocese with the exception of schools. This involves promoting and implementing the National Policies of the Safeguarding Advisory Service {CSAS} and the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission {NCSC}. They are answerable to the Safeguarding Commission and meet the Commission quarterly to update members on progress.

Everyone who works with children or adults who are vulnerable is required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service {DBS} check.

Each parish has additionally a Parish Safeguarding Representative {PSR}. Our safeguarding representative works with the parish priest and the Safeguarding Officer of the Archdiocese of Cardiff to ensure that the parishes are aware of the importance of protecting children and vulnerable adults; and what is involved in good and safe practice.

The safeguarding representative for St. Dyfrig's is Mrs. Maggie White.

From time to time details of safeguarding training that is offered to parishioners can be viewed in the "Catholic People" newspaper and parish newsletters.

### **SAFEGUARDING IN THE PARISHES**

In accordance with National Safeguarding policies, all Parish Volunteers who work with children, young peoples and adults must comply with formal recruiting procedures involving interview, references, self declarations and clearance by the Disclosure and Barring Service {DBS}, before being appointed to any relevant position within parishes. All completed paperwork is sent to the Diocesan Safeguarding Office in Cardiff where they are processed and stored. All information is treated as confidential.

### **WELFARE POLICY**

Our aim is to ensure that all Archdiocesan properties and the activities conducted within them are safe and without risks, so far as is reasonably practicable.

All reasonably practicable steps shall be taken to comply with Health and Safety legislation, Fire Precautions regulation, and recommended safe working practices, notwithstanding any arguments over their legal relevancy to church activities.

We require that clergy and other staff take reasonable care of the safety of themselves and others and display a positive attitude towards health and safety.

Any unsafe condition, within the boundaries of the church property must be reported immediately in order that remedial action can be taken.

Any accident to a person, within the boundaries of the church property, must be reported immediately, so that it can be recorded and fully investigated in order to prevent a recurrence.

We also require that clergy and other staff take all reasonable steps to ensure that people with disabilities are provided with the resources and access to participate in all aspects of the church's life and ministry.

## **CONTACTS**

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Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service  
Website [csas.uk.net](http://csas.uk.net)  
02079011920  
Reporting abuse e mail [admin@csas.uk.net](mailto:admin@csas.uk.net)

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