



Safeguarding Policy

The06

- Is committed to promoting the wholeness and wellbeing of every individual with whom it has contact;
- Seeks to safeguard the welfare of all people with whom it has contact regardless of age.
- Through its staff and volunteers is committed to preventing physical, sexual, spiritual or emotional abuse of children and young people

REQUIREMENTS FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITHIN THE06 PROJECT

When working with youth and children you must

- Treat all children and young people with respect
- Provide an example of good conduct which you would wish others to follow
- Ensure that, wherever possible, there is more than one adult present during activities with children and young people or at least that you are in sight or hearing of others
- Respect a young person's right to personal privacy
- Encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour which is offensive to them
- Remember that someone else may interpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned
- Be aware that even caring physical contact with a child or young person may be misinterpreted
- Recognise that special caution is required in moments when you are discussing sensitive issues with children or young people

YOU MUST NOT:

- Have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children or young people
- Allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention seeking behaviour
- Make suggestive / derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children or young people

- Jump to conclusions about others without checking the facts
- Exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues.
- Show favouritism to any individual
- Believe that “it could never happen to me”
- Take a chance when common sense, policy and practice suggest another more prudent approach
- Ignore the policy and procedures of TheO6 on child protection

WHAT TO DO:

If a child or young person discloses to you abuse by someone else

- Allow him or her to speak without interruption, accepting what is said, but not elaborate it and do not investigate
- Alleviate feeling of guilt and isolation, while passing no judgement
- Let them know you are glad they have shared this information with you
- Advise the child or young person that we must pass on the information

If you suspect a child or young person is being abused, emotionally, physically, spiritually or sexually:

- Report the matter to TheO6 Safeguarding Officer

If you suspect a child or young person is being abused emotionally, physically, spiritually or sexually and is in immediate danger and you cannot get hold of TheO6 safeguarding Officer you must

- Report the matter to the police or the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

If you receive an allegation about any adult or yourself:

- Immediately inform The Youth Project Coordinator
- Try to ensure that no-one is placed in a position which could cause further compromise

In all cases:

- Record the facts and report these to TheO6 Safeguarding Officer
- You must refer; you must not investigate.

If you are unsure of what constitutes child abuse, please refer to pages 33-66 of the Exeter Diocesan Handbook on Safeguarding children and Vulnerable adults. Briefly this Characterises Child Abuse to include, but not exhaustive of the following:

1. Neglect – where a carer “fails to meet the basic essential needs of children, ie food, warmth, clothes, medical care. Or non organic failure to thrive, which is emotional neglect.

2. Physical Abuse: this may or may not result in visible injury. (often abusers will go to great lengths to avoid leaving visible mark), can involve hitting, shaking, burning, squeezing, biting. Giving a child poisonous substances, inappropriate drugs or alcohol.
3. Sexual Abuse: occurs when adults or older children (often siblings) seek sexual gratification by using children. Including all sexual activity from fondling to sexual intercourse. Including exposing children.
4. Emotional abuse: persistent lack of love and affection, threatening behaviour, shouting.
5. Spiritual Abuse: defined as the subtle but nevertheless extremely damaging use of spiritual authority to persuade a person to act in ways which are damaging to her or his individual identity and integrity in the name of obedience for a higher purpose. This could be inappropriate religious practice, leadership, power, deliverance ministries when children are emotionally, physically or sexually abused.

To be aware that

90% of cases are by people known to the child.

Children who are disabled are more vulnerable to abuse

Children seldom make false accusations

Children fear the consequences of telling.

This document is a guideline document, and not exhaustive, further thorough information can be found in the Exeter Diocese Safeguarding folder, or with Jill Rose who is Safeguarding Representative for Ottery St Mary Parish Church.