

**WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA
ENGLAND AND WALES**

**SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES
SGD002 V1**

Please contact your local WAF-E&W Safeguarding Representative if you require a copy of these guidelines in large print.

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What is Safeguarding?

WAF-E&W considers it very important that safeguarding of minors and vulnerable adults is seen as an integral part of its mission, and one that it is firmly rooted in the belief that each individual has a unique worth created in the image and likeness of God.

Every human being has a value and dignity which we as Catholics acknowledge as coming directly from God's creation of male and female in his own image and likeness. We have a common duty to value all people and to support them and protect them from harm. This is done by implementing legislation in accordance with the one church approach of the Roman Catholic Church for England and Wales National Policy and Procedures (www.csas.uk.net).

This is demonstrated by the provision of carefully planned activities for children, young people and adults; supporting families under stress, caring for those hurt by abuse in the past, ministering to those who have caused harm.

It is because of these varied ministries that we need to provide a safe environment for all which promotes and supports their wellbeing. This will include carefully selecting and appointing those who work with children, young people or adults at risk of harm and responding robustly where concerns arise.

All members of WAF-E&W (clergy, employees and volunteers etc) working with vulnerable groups, including children, must adhere to the Catholic Church's national safeguarding policies inclusive of any WAF-E&W specific safeguarding policies.

All WAF-E&W members will be supplied with a copy of this leaflet for reference. Free online training is available for all Catholics by contacting the Department for Safeguarding at: e-learning.safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

What do We Need to Know when Working with Children?

Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015) defines a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.

The Church/WAF-E&W has a legal and moral duty of care to any child or young person placed in our charge and, quite rightly, parents or carers expect that anyone in a position of trust for children is fully aware of and adheres to the national child protection policies. The following checklist will help you; however, if you have any doubts or concerns, always consult your WAF- E&W Safeguarding Lead, or the local diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

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- ✓ Keep an up to date register of group contact information; names of children, their address, telephone number, special medications, doctor's name and contact details and permission to be 'in loco parentis'. Ensure that there is always access to a parent or carer phone/ mobile number in case of emergency.
- ✓ Ensure that a **minimum** of two leaders is always present, maintaining the gender balance of the group where possible. In many groups or clubs, more than two leaders will be necessary and the adult to children ratios should be increased according to the age ranges of the children present:

Children under 5 years:
1 adult leader to every 3 children

Children aged 8—11 years:
1 adult leader to every 10-15 children

Children aged 5—8 years:
1 adult leader to every 6 children

Children over 11 years:
1 adult leader to every 15-20 children

- ✓ Ensure that prior to any activities taken away from the normal meeting place, a risk assessment is be undertaken and the supervision ratios increased accordingly. See your local Safeguarding Lead or consult the Diocesan Department for Safeguarding for risk assessment forms and guidance. #

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse involves the maltreatment of children - physically, emotionally, sexually or through neglect and can give major long-term effects on all aspects of a child's health, development and wellbeing. Here is a summary of the definitions of the different types of abuse a child may suffer, taken from Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015). Please familiarise yourself with these and be alert to signs and indicators that a child or young person could be a victim of abuse and may wish to see us about the potential dangers of the Church, for help.

Definition of Child Abuse:

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child. Certain cultures also practice female genital mutilation which is a severe form of physical abuse and is a crime in the United Kingdom.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child, such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may include suppressing a child's views, or exploiting, corrupting or radicalising them. It may involve interactions beyond a child's capability or overprotection and limiting the child's development, bullying a child or causing them to be

frightened, in some cases by seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another individual. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

The immediate and longer-term impact of child abuse can include anxiety, depression, substance abuse, eating disorders and self harm, offending and anti-social behaviour. Maltreatment is likely to have a deep impact upon the child's self-image and self-esteem and difficulties may extend into adulthood—in forming or sustaining close relationships, establishing oneself in work or in developing the skills for effective parenthood. It is important to be aware that domestic abuse taking place within a child's home can also have a serious impact on children's safety and welfare and that any concerns should always be reported (see page 14).

It is important to be aware that domestic abuse taking place within a child's home can also have a serious impact on children's safety and welfare and that any concerns should always be reported.

What do We Need to Know when Working with Adults?

An adult at risk is any person aged 18 years or over who may need care services because of a mental, physical or learning disability, age or illness and who may be unable to take care of themselves, or protect themselves from harm or being exploited. Personal circumstances and lifestyle may also cause adults to be vulnerable in some situations, **either** permanently or temporarily.

Characteristics to look out for:

People who lack the mental capacity to make decisions about their own safety

People who are physically dependent

People who are bullied, discriminated against or are the focus of anti-social behaviour

People who are socially isolated

People who do not have access to information which could help them or the support they need to be independent

People who have low self-esteem or who are gullible

People who have communication difficulties —speech or cognitive impairment

People who have been abused previously

What if a person lacks capacity? How will we know?

You must act in their best interests. Someone lacks capacity if they cannot:

What is our duty of care to adults at risk?

Section 41 of the Care Act 2014 states that if a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a vulnerable adult is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect and is unable to protect him or herself from harm, then the local authority must make whatever enquiries it thinks are necessary to decide whether any action should be taken in the adult's case. The Care Act 2014 recognises that local authorities can only safeguard vulnerable people by working together with the Police, NHS and other key organisations and the wider public.

What if a person does not want you to share their information?

Care Act Guidance states that frontline workers and volunteers should always share their safeguarding concerns with their line manager or safeguarding lead in the first instance, except in emergency situations (see page 14). The safeguarding principle of proportionality should underpin decisions about sharing information without consent, and decisions should be on a case by case basis.

What is Adult Abuse?

The Office of the Public Guardian states that abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons. It may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may occur when an adult at risk is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which they have not consented, or cannot consent to. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it. Any type of abuse may be perpetrated against an adult at risk as a result of deliberate intent, negligence or ignorance.

DEFINITIONS OF ADULT ABUSE:

Physical abuse includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, withholding or misuse of medication or aids and inappropriate restraint, confinement or

enforced isolation.

Sexual abuse includes sexual acts where an adult has not consented, could not consent to or was coerced into. It may also include non-contact sexual activities, such as voyeurism, viewing or making pornography, indecent exposure and serious or persistent sexual teasing, innuendo or harassment.

Psychological and emotional abuse is included in all other forms of abuse and may involve insults, verbal abuse, shouting and swearing. It arises from a power imbalance in a relationship and the adult at risk is controlled and manipulated, leaving them feeling unworthy, unwanted, unhappy, anxious, insecure, fearful, humiliated and devalued.

Financial or material abuse includes theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, and the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Discriminatory abuse is an abuser focussing upon an adult's disability (physical, mental health, learning or sensory impairment), race, gender, age, religion, cultural background, sexual orientation, political convictions, appearance, social situation, dependence upon drugs or alcohol.

Domestic abuse is defined as any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are, or who have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

Institutional abuse can be understood as organisational practices or failings which may place the management or needs of a service above the needs and wishes of a service user. The term 'institution' includes the Church, hospitals, prisons, children's homes or schools, universities, nursing or care homes.

Spiritual abuse can be forcing one's religious beliefs onto a child or vulnerable person; telling someone that God hates them, preventing them from worship, using faith as a weapon to control or terrorize a person for pleasure or gain, using religious teaching to justify abuse (e.g. wives submit to your husbands) or to compel forgiveness.

Neglect and acts of omission include ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, and the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. We should also be mindful of the increase in **trafficking, grooming** and **hate crime** which can be perpetrated against adults or children and should always be referred if you have any concerns.

Advice for Vulnerable Groups including Children

Everyone who comes to a Church service or activity is created in God's image and must be treated according to this Code of Behaviour. Any form of abuse is unacceptable. A poster giving advice and contact details for anyone who has concerns must be displayed on the parish notice board. Copies are available from the Diocesan Department for Safeguarding.

In keeping with this statement, all clergy, employees and volunteers working with vulnerable groups, including children, must adhere to the following Code of Behaviour.

Code of Behaviour

DO:

Treat all people with dignity and respect.

Provide an example you wish others to follow.

Respect people's right to personal privacy.

Plan activities so that more than one person is present, or at least within sight or hearing of others.

Follow National Procedures and Guidance (summarised in this booklet and available in full online at www.csasprocedures.uk.net).

Encourage children, young people and vulnerable adults to feel comfortable pointing out attitudes or behaviours they don't like.

Remember that others might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned.

Recognise that caution is required even in sensitive moments of counselling, such as when dealing with bullying, bereavement or abuse.

Remember that we all have a responsibility to challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations or suspicions of abuse.

DO NOT:

Permit abusive peer activities (such as name calling, ridiculing, bullying).

Play physical contact games with children and young people.

Have any inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others.

Jump to conclusions without checking facts.

Show favouritism to any individual.
Make suggestive remarks or gestures, even in fun.
Render yourself unfit for duty through the consumption of excess alcohol, drugs, prescribed medication or lack of sleep.
Let suspicion, disclosure or allegations of abuse go unrecorded or unreported.

What Should We Do if We Have Any Concerns?

KEY PRINCIPLES:

If you suspect that a child, young person or vulnerable adult is being, has been or is likely to be abused, you must take action. **To do nothing is not an option.** Do not investigate. The key principles to follow are **Listen—Record—Refer.**

Listen carefully and reassuringly, without making judgement or asking any leading questions. Refrain from asking probing questions and be encouraging. It may be difficult for someone to tell—be patient and go at their pace.

Record. Make, sign and date a written record as soon as possible of all the details which have been given to you, using the informant's exact words if you can.

Refer. If there is an *immediate danger* or the matter is *urgent*, you should report your suspicion without delay to the Police, or to Social Services (Children's or Adults' Services as appropriate) and then inform the Diocese (see page 14).

If there is no immediate danger, collect the fullest possible information at the time the concern or allegation reaches you. That information may include details of what you see, as well as what you are told. Then, at the first possible opportunity, report the matter to the Diocesan Department for Safeguarding/WAF Safeguarding Lead. In order to protect vulnerable people, they need to make a careful assessment of risk, based on fact and professional judgement—and they must be the ones to carry out the investigation in conjunction with the relevant statutory authorities.

Do not under any circumstances alert the alleged abuser, either directly or indirectly, to what has happened. **This is very important.**

All information connected with a child, young person or vulnerable adult is strictly confidential. Do not share any information with any person who does not need to know. However, where the concern is in relation to a child, we have not only a duty of care but a legal obligation to refer the matter. Therefore, never promise to keep secret what you have been told. Instead, reassure that you will only share the information with people who can help., and inform them who you will tell, and what you will tell them.

Remember, to do nothing is not an option and if you are the first person to hear of the allegations or concerns, keep in mind that what you do may determine how effective a subsequent enquiry is.

**WAF-E&W Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
can be viewed on line at
worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk**

SGD000 Creating a Safer Environment-Guidance

SGD001 Safeguarding Policy and procedure for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

SGD002 Safeguarding Guidelines.

SGD003 Flow-Chart: Safer recruitment of new volunteers – working with children or adults at risk

SGD004 Role and Responsibility Risk Assessment sheet.

SGD005 Activity Risk Assessment Sheet.

SGD006 Flow-Chart: Safeguarding allegations and concerns

SGD007 Code of Conduct – Leaders and Helpers.

SGD008 Whistle Blowing

SGD009 CAS2-Application for approval of events and activities

SGD010 CM1 Referral Information

SGD011 PHOTO-1-Consent-to-the-Safe-Use-of-Images-Form

SGD012 Volunteer Registration Form

SGD013 Volunteer Reference Proforma

SGD014 CONFIRMATION-OF-IDENTITY-UK-or-EEA-or-Volunteers

SGD015 Safeguarding-Self-Declaration

SGD016 Pilgrimage Guide Lines

SGD017 WAF-E&W Safeguarding Structure Overview

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA - ENGLAND

SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS ENGLAND AND WALES

There are many people who may be able to help, including:
IN AN EMERGENCY, CONTACT THE POLICE ON 999 or 101

WAF-E&W Safeguarding Lead

TEL: 0044 7834 780288
Email: safeguarding.lead@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

Local Department for Safeguarding, within the respective diocese of the Roman Catholic Church depending upon location.

Tel:
Email:

There are 22 Diocesan safeguarding offices, covering England and Wales. Refer to the local diocesan safeguarding Officer, detail of which can be found on www.csas.uk.net/links/

Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS)

Telephone: 020 7901 1920
www.csas.uk.net

NSPCC

Telephone: 0808 800 5000
www.nspcc.org.uk

Child Line

Telephone: 0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk

Stop it Now Helpline
(charity to prevent child sexual abuse)

Telephone: 0808 1000 900
www.stopitnow.org.uk

Action on Elder Abuse

Telephone: 0808 808 8141
www.elderabuse.org.uk

Age UK

Telephone: 0800 169 6565
www.ageuk.org.uk

National Domestic Violence Helpline
Run in partnership between Refuge and Women's Aid

Telephone: 0808 2000 247
www.womensaid.org.uk

Your Local Social Services:

(please enter your local Children's & Adults' Services numbers here)

Your local WAF-E&W Safeguarding Representative is:

✓ Keep an up to date register of group contact details including name, address, telephone number, special medical needs, telephone number and permission to be contacted in an emergency. Always have access to a parent or carer phone number for every child in the group.

- 1 adult to every 6 children aged 5-8 years
- 1 adult to every 10 children over 8 years

✓ Ensure that a **minimum** of two leaders is present at all times to ensure a gender balance of the group where possible. The following adult to children supervision ratios apply:

0-4

✓ During any activities taken away from the normal school day, a risk assessment should be undertaken and the supervision ratio increased accordingly.

✓ For any activities away from the normal school day, all parents/guardians have signed a consent form. If the group is working away from the normal school day, the following rules apply:

✓ Do not permit any photographs or video