St Andrew's Church MARKS TEY

Who Cares? We Care, and God Cares!

Parish Statement of Safeguarding

This parish recognises that the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount and that we have a duty of care when they are in our charge. We will do everything that we can to provide a safe and caring environment whilst they attend our activities.

The following statement was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on Monday the 14th of September 2026.

We will:

- ✓ Treat all children, young people and vulnerable adults and groups with respect and celebrate their achievements.
- ✓ Recruit and select all those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults or groups on our behalf in accordance with Church of England Practice Guidance on Safer Recruitment.
- ✓ Provide a code of conduct for all staff to include the assessment of risk for key roles when working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- ✓ Respond to concerns and allegations without delay in accordance with Diocesan Safeguarding procedures.

Concerns

When there is a disclosure of harm or there are concerns about the welfare of any children, young person or vulnerable adult, all adults in our church community are expected to share their concerns and allegations with:

- The Parish Safeguarding Officer, the incumbent or the Churchwarden.

Any referrals should be made **without delay** to:

- Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (01245 29 44 57).
- If a child, young person, or vulnerable adult is at risk of immediate harm, the police should be immediately informed – **999**.

Allegations

Additionally, all allegations against staff or volunteers should also be referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (01245 29 44 57) by the incumbent at the earliest opportunity. If the incumbent is implicated then the churchwarden should be informed and inform the Diocesan Bishop (01245 29 44 00) **without delay**.

The parish safeguarding officer is responsible for:

Helping to ensure that all those who work with children, young people or vulnerable adults on behalf of the parish or benefice are aware of the Diocesan Safeguarding procedures.

These are available from the Diocesan Website –

https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding/

- Helping to ensure that all those who work with children, young people or vulnerable adults receive diocesan safeguarding training, as appropriate.

Course and booking information are available on the diocesan website –

https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding/

In our church community we will

- ✓ Treat all children, young people or vulnerable adults with respect and dignity.
- ✓ Ensure that their welfare and safety is paramount at all times.
- ✓ Always act in a professional way and not accept bullying.
- ✓ Liaise openly (where it does not place a child, young person or vulnerable adult at risk) with parents and carers.
- ✓ Only use physical contact in an entirely appropriate manner.
- ✓ Avoid being alone with children and young people (unless it is absolutely necessary to do so).
- ✓ Listen to, and act upon, any disclosures/allegations/concerns that a child, young person or vulnerable adult has been harmed.
- ✓ Ensure that all those working with children, young people or vulnerable adults receive the appropriate diocesan safeguarding training.

For people with key roles working with children and/or young people:

- Supervision should be in place to ensure that the code of conduct is being followed.
- Issues concerning the management of children and young people regarding such things as one-to-one working should be discussed and risk-assessed by the PCC in light of this code of conduct.
- A clear statement should be made regarding the non-compliance to the code of conduct by individuals, e.g. 'Non-Compliance will automatically lead to the person being suspended from working with children, young people or vulnerable adults on behalf of the parish. Any concerns about that person's behaviour regarding children, young people or vulnerable adults will be reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor and/or the police without delay.

The position of Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is vacant.

The full safeguarding policy is available for inspection on the Parish website and in the Vestry.



Church Warden:

14th September 2026