

# Safeguarding Policy for the Catholic Parish of Holy Cross, Catford, London

The Catholic Parish of Holy Cross, Catford, is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults who come into contact with the parish. This policy outlines the procedures and practices that will be followed to ensure that everyone within the parish is safe and protected from harm.

## Principles

- The welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults is paramount.
- Everyone has a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.
- All allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to promptly and appropriately.
- All individuals working or volunteering within the parish will be appropriately recruited and trained in safeguarding procedures.
- The parish will work in partnership with other agencies to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

## Scope

This policy applies to all individuals working or volunteering within the parish, including:

- Parish staff
- Volunteers
- Catechists
- Youth leaders
- Clergy and visiting Priests
- Anyone else who comes into contact with children, young people, or vulnerable adults through their parish ministry

## Procedures

- All individuals working or volunteering within or on behalf of the parish will be required to undergo a DBS check and complete safeguarding training. Volunteers will not be able to take up their Ministry until a certificate has been received.
- Two designated safeguarding officers (DSO) have been appointed to oversee the implementation of this policy and to act as a point of contact for any concerns or allegations of abuse.
- All concerns or allegations of abuse **MUST** be treated confidentially and reported to the DSO **immediately**.
- The DSO will follow the appropriate procedures for investigating and responding to concerns or allegations of abuse, including reporting to statutory agencies where necessary.
- The parish will provide support to anyone who has been affected by abuse.

## Training

- All individuals working or volunteering within the parish will be required to complete safeguarding training on a regular basis.
- Training will cover topics such as:
  - Recognizing the signs of abuse
  - Responding to concerns or allegations of abuse
  - Reporting procedures
  - The role of the DSO
  - Support available to victims of abuse
  - Lone working support

## Review

This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it remains effective and up-to-date.

## Contact Information

If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child, young person, or vulnerable adult, please contact the designated safeguarding officers (DSO):

- **Names of DSO:** Pat Barber and Lisa O'Hara
- Telephone: 07941012396
- Email: [catfordsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:catfordsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

You can also contact the following agencies:

- Diocesan Safeguarding Office:
  - **Telephone:** 020 7261 1606
  - **Email:** [safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk)
  - **Website:** <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/safeguarding/>
- The Metropolitan Police: 999 (emergency) or 101 (non-emergency)
- Lewisham Out of Hours Support ; Lewisham *Children's* Social Care – 020 8314 6000

The Catholic Parish of Holy Cross, Catford, London is committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all. We will not tolerate any form of abuse and will take all necessary steps to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm.

**Date of Policy:** 10 September 2024

**Signed:** Fr Antony