



PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE (PSR)

Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Bridget of Sweden, Isleworth, is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its parishioners. We should always show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Parishioners are encouraged to be open and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have with the Parish Safeguarding Representative.

My name is Tina East and I have been a parishioner at Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Bridget of Sweden since 2013, when my family and I moved to Isleworth.

I was appointed by the Diocese of Westminster as the Safeguarding Representative for our Church in 2018 & also sit on the Parish Council.

What is a PSR?

Each Parish must ensure that it appoints a safeguarding representative to look after the wellbeing of its congregation.

Responsibilities and Training:

- The PSR must promote good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people and adults and provide advice on child and adult safeguarding matters within their Church community.
- The PSR helps to administer safer recruitment practices on a local level, which includes processing the Disclosure and Barring Service checks on all volunteers.
- The PSR is the link between the congregation and the RCDOE Safeguarding Coordinator.
- The PSR has completed the necessary training, provided by the RCDOE and has a sound knowledge of the national policies and procedures.
- The PSR is fully supported by the RCDOE Safeguarding Team and knows who to contact if a concern is raised.

Source: CSAS Organisational Structure and Key Roles

What is Safeguarding?

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 believe therefore that all people should be valued, supported, and protected from harm.

In the Catholic Church 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 and managing those who have caused harm.

It is because of these varied ministries that we need to take all reasonable steps 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 and responding robustly where concerns arise.

Source: CSAS Organisational Structure and Key Roles

A Culture of Safeguarding

The Catholic Church is striving towards a culture of safeguarding where all should be safe from harm and abuse and where every person is encouraged and enabled to enjoy the fullness of life in Jesus Christ through the prayerful, caring, nurturing, supportive and protective endeavours of the Catholic community, both individually and collectively.

Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Bridget.
112 Twickenham Road. Isleworth. TW7 6DL
Parish Office: 020 8560 1431



PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE (PSR)

This commitment calls the whole Church to live the values and principles, which are already implicit in the nature of the Church and its mission. All members of the Church have a role to play in promoting a culture of safeguarding and together with the Bishops and Congregation Leaders we can ensure it is both understood and embraced by the whole Church.

To cultivate a safe and nurturing environment and deepen (or where necessary rebuild) trust there needs to be a culture of:

- Openness and transparency
- Love and respect
- Responsibility and accountability
- Compassion and support
- Justice and integrity
- Honesty and humility
- Questioning and challenging
- Learning and changing

Source: CSAS Organisational Structure and Key Roles

All churches and faith communities are expected to have in place arrangements which include:

- Procedures to respond to and report concerns.
- Codes of practice.
- Safe recruitment procedures.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children involves:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health and development.
- Ensuring that children are growing up with safe and effective care.
- Enabling children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of adults involves:

- Actively promoting the empowerment and well-being of adults.
- Recognising that everyone has the right to live their life free from violence, fear and abuse.
- Recognising that adults have the right to be protected from harm and exploitation.

Anyone who brings concerns or allegations to the notice of the Church will be responded to sensitively, respectfully, and promptly. The Church is fully committed to working actively and constructively in an open, transparent, and accountable way.



PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE (PSR)

The Church also recognises the importance of effective communication with one another and within and between organisations and agencies who exist to protect children and young adults from harm.

FAQ's

Q: How can we create a safe environment at the Parish before an activity takes place?

A: When a Parish decides to organise an activity, it is essential to assess the risks and take all the precautionary measures to create the safest possible environment. PSRs are responsible for advising and supporting the activity leads within their Parish to this end.

Q: Why does the Safeguarding poster on the Parish noticeboard not have the telephone number of the PSR?

A: Unless the Parish can provide their PSR with a Parish mobile phone and dedicated safeguarding number, personal phone numbers are not advertised for reasons of privacy and data protection.

Contacts

In the case of an emergency or where there is an immediate danger or risk of harm please call 999.

For other safeguarding concerns the PSR can be contacted in the following ways:

- In person (before or after Mass)
- By email isleworthsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
- Via the Parish Office during operating hours (020 8560 1431)

Please note that the contact details for the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator can also be found on the parish noticeboard, where I will also display additional Safeguarding material.