

Key Principles and Values

The following expressions of principles and values have been agreed by the Catholic Church nationally and underpin its response and actions under these procedures at all times.

Children

- The Catholic Church in England and Wales embraces its role in supporting children to achieve their full potential in an environment where they are protected from exploitation, abuse and maltreatment;
- All adults within the Church have a responsibility to act and intervene when it appears that children need to be made safe from harm, whether the risk of harm is Neglect, Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse or Emotional Abuse;
- The Church will act in an open, transparent and accountable way in working in partnership with Children's Social Care Services, the Police, Health Agencies, Probation Providers and other agencies to safeguard children and assist in bringing to justice anyone acting in the name of the Church who has committed an offence against a child;
- Anyone who brings concerns or allegations to the notice of the Church will be responded to sensitively, respectfully and seriously. All concerns and allegations will be dealt with within the national procedures and in a timely manner;
- The Church is fully committed to acting within the guidance as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018, and acknowledges that the Church must work in partnership with other agencies and not act alone;
- **Pastoral care** will be made available to children and their families and to other relevant people where there have been concerns and allegations of some form of harm or maltreatment of a child; and
- Where services and support are provided to an adult, who has acted to harm a child, safeguards should be put in place to manage the risk that the adult may harm another child.

Adults

The Catholic Church in England and Wales is fully committed to work in relation to Adults, who may be at risk of abuse or maltreatment. The Church will:

- Work actively and constructively within the framework set out in the Care Act 2014 and Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014, and with associated statutory and good practice guidance;
- Actively promote the empowerment and well-being of adults throughout the church;
- Recognise that everyone has the right to live their life free from violence, fear and abuse;
- Recognise that adults have the right to be protected from harm and exploitation;
- Recognise that adults have the right to independence that involves a degree of risk; and
- Act in an open, transparent and accountable way in working in partnership with Adult Social Care Services, the Police, Health Agencies, Probation Providers and other agencies to safeguard adults and assist in bringing to justice anyone acting in the name of the Church who has committed an offence against an adult.