



DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. DEFINITIONS

'The Diocese' refers to the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle including its constituent Parishes and Partnerships.

'Diocesan personnel' refers specifically to trustees, officers, employees, clergy, religious and volunteers.

'Responsible adults' are all those in a position of responsibility, whether paid or unpaid, with access to children and/or to adults at risk.

'Children' are people under the age of 18 years.

'Adults at risk' are people of 18 years or older who have a need for care and support, or who are experiencing or are at risk of, neglect or abuse.

'CSSA' is the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency.

2. SCOPE

This Policy applies specifically to all Diocesan personnel.

This Diocesan Policy is written in line with the Diocesan values: Trust, Service, Respect, Integrity and Compassion.

3. PURPOSE

This document exists to help Diocesan personnel understand what is expected of them with regard to keeping those in our care safe from harm. It applies to all responsible adults and relates to all children and adults at risk.

4. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Every human being has a value which we acknowledge as coming directly from God's creation of male and female in his own image and likeness. The Diocese believes therefore that all people should be valued, supported and protected from harm. The Diocese recognises the personal dignity and rights of people at risk towards whom the Church has a special responsibility.

The Diocese will undertake appropriate steps to maintain a safe environment for all, by practising fully and positively Christ's Ministry towards children and adults and responding sensitively and compassionately to their needs in order to help keep them safe from harm. This is demonstrated by the provision of carefully planned activities, caring for those hurt by abuse, and robustly managing and ministering to those who have caused harm. The Diocese is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church and affirms a 'One Church' approach¹ to safeguarding through the promotion of a sustained culture of constant vigilance.

¹The 'One Church' approach refers to the commitment by the Catholic Dioceses in England and Wales to use the same policies, procedures and standards in relation to safeguarding.

Child Line	0800 1111	www.childline.org.uk
Stop It Now (Charity to prevent child sexual abuse)	0808 1000 900	www.stopitnow.org.uk
Action on Elder Abuse	0808 808 8141	www.elderabuse.org.uk
Age UK	0800 678 1602	www.ageuk.org.uk
National Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247	www.womensaid.org.uk

Responsible Officer	Safeguarding Co-ordinator
Date first approved by Board	June 2019
First Review Date	June 2020 (now September 2021)
Date Review approved by Board	29 September 2021
Next review date	September 2022
Author	Angie Richardson

Detail of specific reviews and key changes made:

Reviewer(s)	Date	Review Actions	Approved by Board
A Richardson	Aug 2021	Amended CSAS to CSSA Diocesan Personnel definition to include Trustees and Officers	29 Sept 2021
K Nugent	Dec 2021	Amended personnel details	n/a