



Responding to Domestic Abuse Policy

All Saints' Church, Walsoken

Please refer to Document S&S_Doc_001 for all Safeguarding and Social requirements.

Specific Policy

This Safeguarding & Social (S&S) sub-policy controls how the church responds to domestic abuse.

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting our church environment which:

- 1) Ensures that all people feel welcomed, respected, and safe from abuse.
- 2) Protects those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm.
- 3) Recognises equality amongst people and within relationships.
- 4) Enables and encourages concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

We recognise that:

- 1) All forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship.
- 2) All survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- 3) Domestic abuse can occur in all communities.
- 4) Domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency.
- 5) Domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour.
- 6) Working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse

Reference Documents

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure 2021

Procedure

If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone, please contact The Priest in Charge, the Churchwardens or the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by observing the following:

In all our activities

- 1) Valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

In our publicity

- 2) Raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources, and expertise, through providing information in public and women-only areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

When concerns are raised

ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help.

- 3) Working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In our care:

- 4) Ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.
- 5) Identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

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Forms

None

Diagrams

None

Appendices

None

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