

Statement of Safeguarding Principles



Wells Cathedral, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will promote the safeguarding of children, young people and adults who may be at risk of harm, neglect or abuse.

We work with the Diocesan Safeguarding team, statutory bodies and other agencies to foster and deliver best practice within our community.

The Chapter adopts the House of Bishops' National Safeguarding Policies and Practice, details of which are available on the Church of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/policy-and-practice-guidance>

We are committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the church
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subjects of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those who may pose a present a risk to others

To this end

- We will establish a safe, caring community which provides an environment where there is a culture of informed vigilance regarding the dangers of abuse, and where victims/survivors of abuse can report or disclose abuse and find support
- We will promote best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse
- We will carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration/membership of the relevant vetting and barring schemes
- We will respond promptly and respectfully to every complaint made, that any adult, child, or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, and other affected persons, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused
- We will seek to protect victims/survivors of abuse from the possibility of further harm and abuse
- We will seek to care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision, and referral to the appropriate authorities, to any member of our church community known to have committed offences against a child, young person or adult
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust

In all principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Approved by the Chapter of Wells Cathedral in January 2022.

To be reviewed in three years' time in January 2025.

Signed: *Toby Wright* Date: *25.6.24*

Name: The Very Reverend Toby Wright, Deans of Wells Cathedral

The Chapter member with oversight of Safeguarding is Revd Timothy Stevens, Precentor.

The Cathedral Safeguarding Operational Lead is Nerys Watts.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Manager is Ben Goodhind.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Caseworker is Jo Austin.