

Safeguarding Policy for The Society of the Precious Blood 2023
Update 7 (January 2024)

Charity Registration Number: 900512

The Society of the Precious Blood is an Anglican community of contemplative nuns. It is also a Registered Charity. The Reverend Mother is responsible for governing and administering the affairs of the Society with the Charity Trustees of whom she is ex officio Chair, and for the needs of the Community. The Charity Trustees are elected, or, in the case of External Trustees, appointed, by the Chapter, which consists of all the Professed Sisters of the Community. In this document the Society presents its Policy on Safeguarding. It also has an established Policy on Health and Safety, Bullying and Harassment Policy and appropriate Risk Assessments.

Basis of the Safeguarding Policy

The basis of the policy is the ‘A Safer Church’ Safeguarding approach of the Church of England, requiring the same policies and practice across the whole Church. This includes Religious Communities and reflects their individual circumstances (for example *enclosed*, or where their members are *engaged in the wider world*). Thus, each Religious Community adopts a policy specific to its life.

The Safeguarding Policy of the Church of England

The Church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its ministry and mission, promoting a safer culture and the welfare of every child, young person, and adult. As such, the Church has robust policies, procedures, and guidelines in place, to ensure good practice throughout the central organisation, its 42 dioceses and other Church bodies.

The Church of England will:

- Promote a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church.
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Respond to those that may pose a present risk to others.

In accordance with this policy the Community

- Has nominated a Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP).
- Will seek advice as necessary from the Safeguarding Adviser for the Diocese in which it resides.
- Will obtain and up-date appropriate training from the Diocese (or at National level if required).
- Will ensure compliance with the Community’s insurance policy.

Statement of Safeguarding Principles

We are committed to:

- **The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry of all: children, young people, and adults.**
- **The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people, and adults**
- **The establishment of a safe, caring community which provides a loving environment in which victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and where they can find support and best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse.**

To this end:

- We will carefully select, support, and train all those, including volunteers, with any responsibility within the Community, in line with the principles of Safer Recruitment
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made that any adult, child or young person may have been harmed, and cooperate with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to offer pastoral support including reference to appropriate authorities to anyone who becomes known to us to have suffered abuse.
- We will seek to protect survivors of abuse from the possibility of further harm and abuse.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power that we become aware of.

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

The Church of England has approved the following safeguarding policies:

- *Promoting a Safer Church; House of Bishops policy statement (2017).*
- *Promoting a Safe church (safeguarding policy for adults, 2006)*
- *Protecting all God's Children (safeguarding policy for children and young people 4th ed. 2010)*
- *Responding to Safeguarding Concerns or Allegations that relate to Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults practice guidance (2018)*
- *Responding to, assessing, and managing concerns or allegations against church officers practice guidance (2017)*
- *Responding well to domestic abuse practice guidance (2017)*
- *Responding well to those who have been sexually abused practice guidance (2011)*
- *Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance (2021)*

These policies (as updated from time to time) apply to all parts of the Church, including Religious Communities, and are characterised by being adopted locally, with the appointment of a Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP), being advised by the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA), and engaged in safeguarding training on a continuing basis.

Our Religious Community DSP is:

Reverend Suzanne Johnson, vicar.manorpark@gmail.com, telephone 07305 151 212.

The DSA is:

Louise Whitehead, louise.whitehead@oxford.anglican.org, telephone 07391 868 478.

The Area Safeguarding Advisor for Buckingham is:

Tsungai Muchegwa, tsungai.muchegwa@oxford.anglican.org, telephone 07435 550 685

Email contact may also be had via:

safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org

Society of the Precious Blood Specific arrangements

Because the life and work of the Community is substantially internal to its precincts, its Safeguarding Policy will be applied principally in relation to the wellbeing of:

- MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY
 - In relationships among themselves
 - When receiving visitors
 - Visitors who are expected and known,
 - Visitors who are expected but not previously known,
 - Visitors who arrive unexpectedly (where particular safety issues could arise for members of the Community).
 - In relationships with Oblates and Companions of the Community.
 - In relationships with supporting Volunteers.
 - In relationships with CSC sisters, oblates, companions, novices, and their visitors.
- CONTRACTORS OR EMPLOYEES WORKING FOR, WITH, OR ON BEHALF OF, THE SOCIETY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

Arrangements in the Community

Sister Victoria Mary, as Reverend Mother, is responsible for coordinating the Safeguarding Policy. If any Safeguarding concerns arise, on behalf of the Community she will consult the Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP). Together they will decide whether Social Services or the Police need to be involved. The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser will always be consulted, and the Episcopal Visitor will be informed if a serious safeguarding incident occurs. A record will always be made and kept about any reported incident. All Safeguarding actions will be made in accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy as described above in the Community's Policy Document. The Community's Health and Safety Policy, Risk Assessment and Bullying and Harassment Policy may also be relevant.

SAFEGUARDING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

- In relationships among themselves: each Sister has the right of access to the Community Counsellor and to the Episcopal Visitor should any incident occur that cannot be resolved within the Community.
- When receiving visitors: The Sisters of the Society of the Precious Blood are currently living as guests of the Community of the Sisters of the Church, whilst some members of the community live in residential care. As such any visitors they receive are received as guests of the Community or Residential Care home in which they reside. Safeguarding issues, under these circumstances, fall

under the safeguarding policy of the appropriate community or care home.

The Reverend Mother of the Society of the Precious Blood is responsible for ensuring that all Communities, Residential Care Homes, or other places of residence where Sisters may reside, have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place.

- Relations with Oblates and Companions: There is normally a significant introductory period to such a relationship within the Community.

The Safeguarding Policy is available in case of need.

- Working with Volunteers: Volunteers generally become well known to the Community before a potential role is identified and they are invited to use their gifts to help in its life and work. The Safeguarding Policy is available in case of need.

SAFEGUARDING VISITORS TO THE COMMUNITY

- Guests are likewise protected by the care with which they are identified, received, and become known. In this connection it is necessary to note that none of the Sisters of the Community are trained counsellors; therefore a counselling role is not offered by the community in connection with cases of abuse.

CONTRACTORS OR EMPLOYEES WORKING ON SITE

- The same safeguarding policies apply.

RESPONSE TO ABUSE DISCLOSURE

Someone beginning to disclose may lead to a need to refer the matter to the relevant authorities (via the Diocesan Advisor) if risk to others might still arise. In such a case the informant must be warned that this is the case before any detail is revealed. Once the information has been passed on the Community’s responsibility ends. We note that many dioceses now have trained listeners, who are able to assist distressed people.

This safeguarding policy was adopted by the Charity Trustees of the Society of the Precious Blood on 11 January 2024

Signed

Name: Sr Victoria Mary SPB

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees on 11 January 2024

(Revised ... and contact details updated ...)