

What Do I Do If There's a Problem?

If you cannot find the answers to the ten questions in this leaflet, we suggest that in the first instance you speak to your vicar and the safeguarding officer for your parish. If you feel that you still need more clarity, then we recommend that you contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Their contact details, and much more information about keeping children and adults safe, can be found on the Diocese of Chichester safeguarding website:

www.safeguarding.chichester.anglican.org

Useful Contacts:

Parish Priest:
Rev. James Hollingsworth
vicar@seafordparish.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer:
Ruth Saunders
safeguarding@seafordparish.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer:
01273 421 021

Local Children's Services contact number:

Sussex Police non-emergency number:
101

Childline: 0800 1111

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER

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Keeping Your Children Safe in Church

This leaflet is for parents and carers whose children attend activities in church. It suggests a list of questions that you can ask to help reassure yourselves that the church your children attend is running safe activities.

Some of the answers to these questions can be found on parish websites. Others may require a conversation between you and someone in leadership in the church. Either way, it is important that you trust your local church to be able to ensure the safety of your children with the same care and diligence that you exercise. The questions in this leaflet will help you to ensure that this is the case.

If your children attend church, or groups and activities associated with church, we would encourage you to ask the following questions:

1. Are all the people who work or volunteer with your child(ren) DBS checked to the appropriate level?
2. Are all the people who work or volunteer with your child(ren) trained to the appropriate level?
3. Is the parish's safeguarding policy statement easily available?
4. Can you easily find the contact details of the Parish Safeguarding Officer?
5. Is it clear how you can raise a concern or make a complaint?
6. Are there Codes of Conduct for how adults should behave towards children, and how children should behave towards each other? Are they easily accessible?

7. Is your child aware of how they should be treated by the adults who care for them at church, and by the other children?

8. Does your child know what to do if they aren't happy about something?

9. Does your church have risk assessments and risk-management plans for its activities with children? Can you see them if you ask to?

10. Most importantly; is the church, as far as you can tell, following the commitments they make in their safeguarding policy statement, and in their Codes of Conduct.