

Safeguarding report June 2024.

My name is Joanna Murphy Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady of the Annunciation. I started this position in January 2024 motivated by God and the gap our parish had in this integral part of keeping everybody safe. I am working hard with the safeguarding team of the diocese to make sure all current volunteers have completed volunteer forms and get DBS checks if necessary – this process is lengthy, your cooperation is essential. I have asked that no new volunteers follow the safer recruit process until September as I pray that we will be up to date by then. All guidelines/processes are written by the Catholic Safeguarding standards Agency. I have had full support from the safeguarding Team at Southward and am very grateful for their knowledge and professionalism,

Job Role

The job role of Parish safeguarding Representative is to promote a culture of Safeguarding, where the parish community is aware of safeguarding issues and help to ensure Safeguarding is understood as an essential part of the ministry of the church.

Volunteers/DBS checks

In our parish I am committed to the safer recruitment process. The recruitment of volunteers needs to be robust process following the below procedure:

- Volunteers to be introduced to me and we follow interview questions/volunteer leaflet to be shared with potential volunteer.
- Volunteer form to be filled out and references to be contacted.
- DBS process to be started with the safeguarding team.
- ID Verification.
- Mandatory safeguarding training to be completed.
- Volunteer guidelines to be read and signed

Training

I attended the training day in Southwark and met with fellow PSR's in Croydon which was very helpful. The Safeguarding team from Southwark came to support our Parish by running a training morning in our small hall onit was well attended and this opportunity was used for ID verification – all that attended received a certificate. This mandatory training needs to be repeated by all volunteers every 3 years.

Conclusion

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. It is vital that as a parish community we continue to show commitment to Safety within our parish by continuing to follow guidelines and recommendations from the safeguarding team at Southwark and the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. Please contact me via email with any questions/queries addiscombedbs@safeguardrcaos.org.uk