

Safeguarding report May 2026.

My name is Joanna Murphy, Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady of the Annunciation. We now have an assistant Parish Safeguarding Representative, Clare George.

We are working alongside the Diocese safeguarding team to keep accurate records of our volunteers together with their documentation. Leaders of each group are being very helpful and we are all collaborating in this integral part of keeping everybody in our Parish safe. There was a safeguarding Audit in July 2025. We were not involved this time but feel that we are on the way to being ready when necessary.

All guidelines/processes are written by the Catholic Safeguarding standards Agency and are being followed. We have had full support from the safeguarding Team at Southward and are in regular contact with them.

We need to ensure that relevant safeguarding information is on display, including our contact details and how to contact us.

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 we are committed to the **safer recruitment process**. The recruitment procedure that we follow is:

- Team leaders let us know when they have a new volunteer
- Volunteer form is filled out and references to be contacted where necessary
- DBS process to be started with the safeguarding team.
- We meet the volunteer and go through their ID Verification.
- Volunteer guidelines to be read and signed

We need to ensure that Mandatory safeguarding training is available in the Parish and completed on a regular basis

Training

I attended the annual training day for PSRs and met with fellow PSR's in Croydon which was very helpful. I found the Speaker Darren Stokes from NAPAC (National Association for people abused in childhood) very informative.

We had the Safeguarding team from Southwark came to support our Parish in 2024 to run a training morning. It was well attended and highlighted the importance of Safeguarding in the Parish, making more people aware of role that everyone plays.

This mandatory training will need to be repeated by all volunteers every 3 years. In 2027 we will have a large number of volunteers renewing their DBS and we will seek the help of Southwark Safeguarding team to lead the training again and help us with the ID verification

Updates

Photographs and videos, guidelines need to be followed. Please ensure that everyone is aware that their photograph is being taken and how the photographs are being publicly shared.

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
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