The Archdiocese of Southwark Safeguarding Policy & Procedures Children & Adults at Risk

*This Policy applies to all Ordained Ministers, Religious, Parishioners, Volunteers or staff members who minister, volunteer, worship or work with children, young people or Adults at Risk within, or represent the Archdiocese of Southwark.*

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.

 *Every human being has a value and dignity which we as Catholics recognise as coming from God’s creation in his own image and likeness. Our Parishes and communities must be a place of welcome, where each person is respected and loved, and in which everyone receives and shares their unique gifts. Parishes must be communities where we support and protect each other. We must take care of the most vulnerable because of age, illness or disability or who may be vulnerable because of current or past life experiences. Everyone in the Church has a responsibility to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of those that worship in our Church or who join us for an activity facilitated by Church members. When Church activities are organised well, with regards for the safety and well-being of all, we reduce the risk of avoidable harm to all participants and create spaces of true welcome in which respectful and enriching relationships can develop. It is the Policy of The Catholic Church of England & Wales to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people and Adults at Risk by protecting them from neglect and from physical, sexual, emotional & psychological harm.*