

Safeguarding Policy

The Oratory of the Good Shepherd (European Province) known as 'OGS European Province', a company limited by guarantee and referred to herein as the 'Community'.

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Promoting a Safer Church Policy Commitments

We are committed to:

1. Promoting a safer environment and culture
2. Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within our Community
3. Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
4. Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
5. Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
6. Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

To this end:

We will carefully select, support and train all those 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, cooperating with the Bishop of Birmingham's Safeguarding Adviser, police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and/or isolation.

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, especially by anyone in a position of respect and responsibility, where they are trusted by others.

We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision, and referral to the appropriate authorities, to any member of our Community known to have offended against a child, young person or adult who is vulnerable.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice and agree to adopt all current House of Bishops' safeguarding policies and practice guidance.

We recognise that these policies apply to our Community, both internally and externally in our pastoral work.

We will appoint a designated safeguarding person for our Community and seek advice from, and provide information to, the Bishop of Birmingham's Safeguarding Adviser on all safeguarding concerns, allegations and disclosures, including when ex-offenders convicted of a sexual or serious violent offence are attending any activity approved by the Community, within 24 hours.

We will seek advice from the Bishop of Birmingham's Safeguarding Adviser in relation to any concerns we have and all allegations and disclosures.

Our Religious Community designated safeguarding person is:

The Right Revd Dominic Walker OGS
Email: dwalker@ogs.net
Phone: 01600 772151

The Bishop of Birmingham's Safeguarding Adviser is: Steph Haynes

She may be contacted for advice:
Email: StephH@cofebirmingham.com
Phone: 07342 993 844

Safeguarding Training

Brethren and Aspirants must attend safeguarding training provided by a diocese within The Church of England every three years

Safeguarding DBS Checks

Licensed ordained brethren will be expected to have regular DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks in accordance with the policy of the dioceses in which they hold their respective licences



Ordained brethren who do not hold a current diocesan licence and lay brethren should have DBS checks carried out by the Diocese of Birmingham at the expense of OGS (European Province) and be renewed every five years.

Licensed ordained aspirants should provide evidence of a current DBS check; ordained aspirants who do not hold a current licence and lay aspirants should have checks carried out by the Diocese of Birmingham at their own expense.

Any queries regarding DBS checks for brethren or aspirants in the Diocese in Europe, the Church of Ireland, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church in Wales should be referred to:

Safeguarding Training & Development Officer
The Church of England – Birmingham
Claire Wesley
Email: ClaireW@cofebirmingham.com
Phone: 0121 426 0432

This safeguarding policy was adopted by OGS (European Province)

Signed: + *Dominic Walker OGS*

Name (Print): The Right Revd Dominic Walker OGS (Provincial)
On behalf of OGS (European Province)

Date: 23rd July 2018

Reviewed: October, 2019, July 2020, July 2021, September 2022