

Safeguarding Policy

1. About this policy

- 1.1. All charities should ensure that all those who come into contact with them are safeguarded. As a result, Church Society has produced this policy to care for those people, and provide a safe environment for staff, volunteers, and others connected with our activities.
- 1.2. This policy should be taken alongside other relevant Church Society policies including the Social Media Policy, the Code of Practice for trustees and other officers, and the Complaints Policy. All these policies are available at <https://churchsociety.org/society/page/policies>.
- 1.3. *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” - Colossians 3:12*
- 1.4. Policies are agreed by the elected Church Society Council and are reviewed annually. This policy was last reviewed in December 2023. Next review due December 2024.

2. Children and Adults at Risk

- 2.1. Church Society does not work directly with children or adults at risk.
- 2.2. Church Society may occasionally come into contact with children who are under the supervision of their parents or guardians whilst attending one of our events. No one should have unsupervised contact with children in connection with the activities of Church Society. No personal data of children is stored by Church Society without the express consent of their parents or guardians.
- 2.3. Church Society does not knowingly come into contact with adults at risk. Because of this, trustees, council members and staff are not required to have a DBS certificate for their roles or work with Church Society. However, all our trustees,

council members, staff and volunteers are required to abide by our Code of Practice, which can be found at <https://churchsociety.org/society/page/policies> and many of them will already have DBS certificates from their work with other organisations, however Church Society cannot, and does not, rely on these.

- 2.4. Furthermore, according to its Christian identity, Church Society is committed to act in all circumstances with compassion, grace, and pastoral concern. For trustees and honorary officers, this encompasses their interactions (whether in person, by telephone, by email, on social media, or any other form of correspondence) with one another, those employed by Church Society, Church Society members, the media, interested non-members, and especially those raising concerns regarding the organisation, or one of its representatives, in terms of communication and/or practice. More details of the expectations of Church Society Council members, staff and volunteers can be found in the Code of Practice.

3. Reporting

- 3.1. Church Society takes seriously the responsibility of caring for those who are connected with this charity. Therefore, if a case of abuse or another serious incident is reported, we will follow the guidance given by the Charity Commission to report to the police if the incident or concern involves criminal behaviour, and where necessary also referring to social services and reporting to other agencies. In case of a serious incident, a report will also be made to the Charity Commission.¹
- 3.2. If a matter of safeguarding related to the charity's work occurs, it should be reported to one of the safeguarding officers. These are:
 - 3.2.1. Andrew Towner, Chair of Church Society Council
Contact details: chair@churchsociety.org; 01228 515363.
 - 3.2.2. Ros Clarke, Associate Director
Contact details: ros@churchsociety.org; 07794413245
- 3.3. You can also contact your local authority safeguarding team or, if there is an immediate risk or danger, dial 999.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees>