



Safeguarding Children

in the

Diocese of Coventry

What is child abuse?

A misuse of power, an abuse of relationships and a betrayal of trust.
There are four types of child abuse.

- * Physical abuse.
- * Sexual abuse.
- * Emotional abuse.
- * Neglect.

Child abuse occurs within all walks of life and all sections of the community, regardless of religious or cultural background.

Recognising abuse.

There are several ways in which we may become concerned that a child has been abused.

- * By an allegation made directly by the child.
- * By reports or allegations from another child or adult.
- * By observing possible signs and symptoms of abuse.
- * By the admission or 'cry for help' from an adult who says they are harming a child.
- * Where an adult discloses historical abuse.
- * "Confession".

Possible indicators of abuse include:-

- * Unexplained bruises or injuries.
- * Self harm.
- * Running away.
- * Eating disorders.
- * Sleep problems.
- * Wetting or soiling.
- * Sexualised behaviour.
- * Poor hygiene.
- * Underweight.
- * Constant hunger.
- * Child being withdrawn.
- * Child having lots of gifts or money.

If a disclosure is made.

DO

- * Stay calm.
- * Listen carefully.
- * Take what you are being told seriously.
- * Reassure.
- * Let the child/young person know that you need to tell someone.
- * Speak to your Child Protection Officer or Incumbent.
- * Inform Children's Social Care or the Police.
- * Inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.
- * Make clear notes of what you were told, date and sign them and send a copy to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

DO NOT

- * Panic.
- * Ask questions.
- * Stop the child or young person from speaking.
- * Make promises that you cannot keep.
- * Promise confidentiality.
- * Try and investigate yourself.
- * Keep the information to yourself.

What to do if you have concerns.

Discuss your concerns with your Incumbent, Parish Child Protection Officer or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser is available to advise you on the action to take if you have concerns or suspect that a child or young person is being abused.

If a direct disclosure of abuse is made to you it must be reported to the Police or Children's Social Care **immediately.**

Useful numbers.

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser Carol Clarke	02476521345 07906627052
Children's Social Care, Coventry	024 76788555
Emergency Duty Team, Coventry (Out of hours)	024 76832222
Solihull Children's Social Work Services	0121 7884333
Emergency Duty Team, Solihull (Out of hours)	0121 6056060
Warwickshire Children's Social Care	01926 410410
Emergency Duty Team, Warwickshire (Out of Hours)	01926 886922
West Midlands Police	0845 113 5000
Warwickshire Police	01926 415000
NSPCC Helpline	0800 800 500
Childline	0800 1111

REMEMBER.

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility.

NEVER DO NOTHING.