



Governance & SAFEGUARDING As Mission

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Joint training session
with
Mike Simmonds
Governance Officer/Consultant

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Vulnerability as safeguarding is a potential in any context



“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and oppressed...”
Psalm 83v4



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Safeguarding as Mission

Learning from Encounters with Jesus

MEv146 Justin Humphreys

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"Safeguarding, for many, represents a government-led, bureaucratic, tick-box process that has little place in the Church. For others, it represents a series of hurdles to effective ministry and mission. Yet, for others, safeguarding principles and practice are enablers and a good-sense guide for interacting with others"



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"...do well to remember that our responsibility towards the welfare of children is an all-year requirement. The Church has often fallen gravely short in this area, but, in truth, the safety and protection of children should be at the heart of all we do. This is not just a moral imperative but a theological one, central to our faith and how we build communities."

Bishop of Chelmsford Guli Francis-Dehqani



"Throughout scripture, we are reminded, guided and even commanded to love our neighbours as we love ourselves... to treat others as we would want to be treated and to go out of our way to meet the needs of others above our own."



Forgiveness is NOT the opposite of justice

- Biblical forgiveness does not silence victims
- Victims need support and encouragement
- Accountability is needed for perpetrators

Forgiveness does NOT remove the need to protect the vulnerable

- Don't give opportunity for further abuse
- Struggle with sin is real
- Perpetrators of abuse are still a risk to others

Forgiveness is NOT the same as pretending bad things have not happened

- The Gospel = grace and truth
- Sin is forgiven, not hidden away

In the cases of abuse a superficial understanding of forgiveness should not be applied in the absence of other responses that promote accountability.





Safeguarding is defined as

"...the protection of a person's health, well-being, and right to live in safety, free from harm, abuse and neglect"

Guidance issued by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence at [nhs.nice.org.uk](https://www.nice.org.uk)

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"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: '**Love your neighbour as yourself.**'"

Matthew 22.37-39

"...in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you."

Matthew 7.12

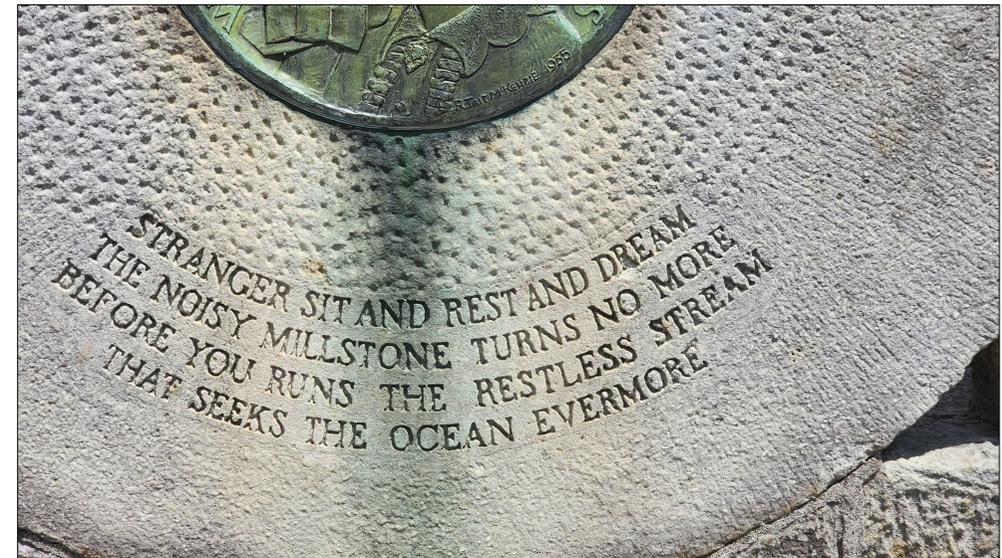
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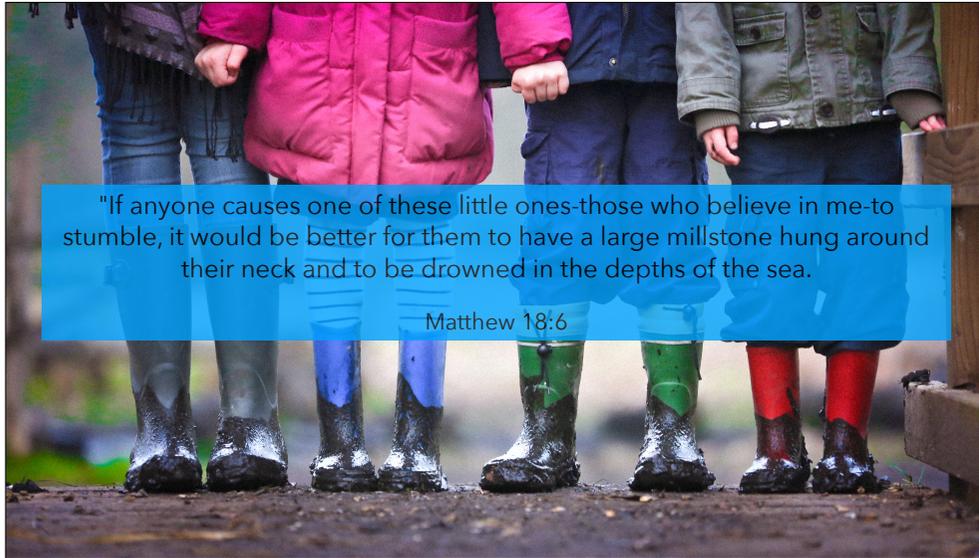
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"If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."
 Matthew 18:6

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Safeguarding as Mission

Learning from Encounters with Jesus

MEv146 Justin Humphreys

"If safeguarding is a matter of justice, and justice is who God is, what God does and therefore who and what we should be, we can see that it should be integral and essential to how we live."

Justin Humphreys page 8

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It's natural that we bring our own *interpretation* to the picture...

Sometimes what we see is shaped by what we *expect* to see...

Sometimes, what we see is what we *prefer* to see....

These factors often play a role in safeguarding situations

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Jesus and the woman at the well
 John 4.1-40

Jesus and the rich young ruler
 Matthew 19.16-22

Jesus and the Pharisees
 Matthew 23.36

Encounters with Jesus

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Jesus and the woman at the well
John 4.1-40

Learning Point 1

Jesus went out of his way to be with those whom others chose not to, regardless of the potential consequences for himself.

Learning Point 2

Jesus valued people and was prepared to go against accepted conventions to show genuine concern and compassion for others especially where they would be disadvantaged or vulnerable.



Jesus and the woman at the well
John 4.1-40

Learning Point 3

Jesus demonstrated empathy and compassion without judgement and turned his encounter into an empowering experience. He showed no prejudice or judgement, but offered kindness and love.

Learning Point 4

Jesus does not use his power faultlessly. He restores dignity and avoids a misuse of his power when speaking with others



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Jesus and the rich young ruler
Matthew 19.16-22

Learning Point 5

Jesus offered choice and avoided any form of coercion or control. There was no need for manipulation, because his listeners were free to walk away.

Learning Point 6

Jesus always acted in the confidence of his relationship with God. He was not driven by the pressure of performance or conformity or the sense of inadequacy.



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Jesus and the Pharisees
Matthew 23.36

Learning Point 7

Jesus was clear to challenge issues that threatened to cause harm to others through hypocrisy, misinterpretation of the law and unachievable expectations for its followers.

Learning Point 8

Jesus showed courage in advocating for those who were being harmed and misled, ultimately at his own personal cost.



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Jesus and the Pharisees
Matthew 23.36

Learning Point 9

Jesus brought a challenge to return to righteousness and to avoid the misuse of authority, position and power.

Learning Point 10

Jesus does not shy away from calling out any behaviour that is harmful to the relationship that God desires with his creation and does not miss the opportunity to repeat himself where necessary.



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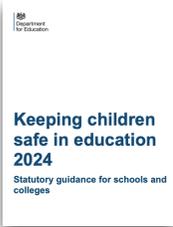


Why should Church Schools treat safeguarding as mission

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“The examples provided by Jesus make the case for the reframing of safeguarding as an issue close to God’s heart that speaks to justice, safety, security and love for his creation. All of these should be hallmarks or the DNA of our everyday ministered mission and ministry, even the very purpose of our mission. These are not add-ons or peripheral activities.”

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76. Governing bodies and proprietors have a strategic leadership responsibility for their school or college's safeguarding arrangements and must ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They must have regard to this guidance, ensuring policies, procedures and training in their schools or colleges are effective and comply with the law at all times.

2. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's responsibility**. 'Children' includes everyone under the age of 18. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should **make sure their approach is child centred**. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is **in the best interests of the child**.



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Governing bodies have a strategic leadership responsibility for its school's safeguarding arrangements. They must:

- comply with their duties under legislation
- have regard to KCSIE guidance
- ensure that policies, procedures and training in their schools are effective and comply with the law at all times

Governors and associate members should ensure they have read and follow part 2 of the KCSIE guidance.

Maintained schools governance guide

From: Department for Education
Published 7 March 2024

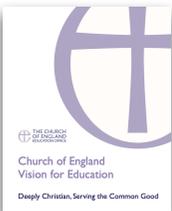


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Our vision embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children and young people. We offer a vision of human flourishing for all, one that embraces excellence and academic rigour, but sets them in a wider framework. (p2)

A core desire that we have found expressed in many ways is for 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). It is about 'educating the whole person', what the 1988 Education Reform Act (in a programmatic statement that remains in force and is deservedly influential) sees as physical and intellectual development united with spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. (pg 6)

Our commitment to the dignity and ultimate worth of each person, rooted in each being created in the image of God and loved by God, is further shaped by the person, teaching and example of Jesus.

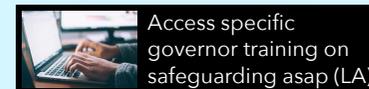


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Access specific governor training on safeguarding asap (LA)



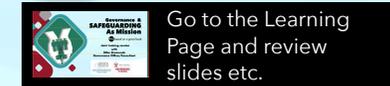
Recommendations



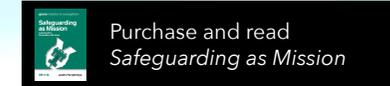
Sign up for *Governance in a Christian Manner*, and/or purchase the Grove Book



Read *KCSIE '24*



Go to the Learning Page and review slides etc.



Purchase and read *Safeguarding as Mission*



Initiate discussion with your governing body



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“let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 5.16

“Abstain from all appearance of evil.”
1 Thess 5.22

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THANKS FOR ATTENDING

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DO KEEP IN TOUCH

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