

Diocesan Policy Statement
Regarding the Care of Children, Young People and Vulnerable
Adults

It is a priority for the Lancaster Diocese, in all its parishes and organisations, to create opportunities for children, young people and vulnerable adults to come to know and love God, and to find in Christ the source of their own social, emotional, moral and spiritual development. Our commitment to the pastoral development and welfare of vulnerable people flows from our belief in the dignity and sanctity of each person, and their right to grow and live in a supportive and nurturing community. As the Church we share responsibility for those in our collective care and we state that:

- As members of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Lancaster we recognise that every person is created in the image and likeness of God, and is so loved by God.
- We seek to respect the dignity and uniqueness of individuals by ensuring the safety of all those, whatever their age, with whom we have contact. We recognise that vulnerable people are individuals, with their own needs, rights, wishes and feelings.
- We believe it is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care. We aim to provide a safe environment that supports and nurtures, so they may develop and mature as safe from harm as possible.
- We accept that some element of risk is unavoidable and so support and accept Diocesan Protection Procedures intended to minimise those risks.
- The Lancaster Diocesan Child Protection Commission will liaise closely with statutory agencies to ensure that any allegations of abuse are promptly and fairly dealt with and perpetrators held to account.
- Our Diocese will support victims of abuse from all Church Workers, Volunteers, Clergy and Male and Female Religious. It will also give support to Church Workers, Volunteers, Clergy and Male and Female Religious who are found to be victims of false allegations.