

## Safeguarding Statement 2026

“Creating a safer environment is paramount to ensuring that the Diocese of Salford fosters a culture of safeguarding. We will ensure that everyone in the Diocese understands their responsibility to safeguarding and promote the well-being of those who worship in our churches or who join us for any activity facilitated by church members. We will continue to strive towards the highest standards of practice to keep people safe.” (Salford Diocesan Website)

In line with diocesan policy, we at The Sacred Heart of Jesus parish Church, Westhoughton are committed to do everything to ensure a safe environment for our parishioners and visitors, especially for the most vulnerable.

All parish workers and volunteers who have contact with children or vulnerable adults are required to have checks made with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

This process is well established within the parish. In line with Diocesan Guidelines, we are constantly in the process of checking and updating records and arranging for new/renewal DBS checks where needed.

Diocesan approved posters are displayed on the parish noticeboard clearly showing who should be contacted if there are any safeguarding concerns.

Contact details for the Parish Safeguarding Representative are also clearly written on the header of the weekly parish newsletter. The newsletter is readily available to all parishioners in printed form each weekend and is also added to the Parish web page.

Those who use our parish hall for social events, or third parties who use the church for their services, will be asked to provide a Risk Assessment clearly stating their Safeguarding procedures if an event is for unaccompanied children or vulnerable adults.

The parish is subject to audit by the Diocese Safeguarding Team.

Any safeguarding concerns may be sent to our parish Safeguarding Representative Cathy Ward who can be contacted directly on 07746296095 or via email [shjwesthoughtonsafeguarding@outlook.com](mailto:shjwesthoughtonsafeguarding@outlook.com)

Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0161 817 2206.

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| Person(s) completing this document | Cathy Ward                         |
| Position                           | Parish Safeguarding Representative |
| Reviewed annually                  | February                           |