

Parish Statement on Domestic Abuse

St Andrew's Church, High Wycombe

Document Reference	STAC-POL-DA
Version	March 2026
Classification	Internal
Basis	Church of England national safeguarding standards and the Safeguarding E-manual (2026); "Responding Well to Victims and Survivors of Abuse" guidance.
Contact	PSO Ant Dixon · 07988 076635 Deputy PSO Jamie Mitchell · 07591 186500
Review Date	Annually (minimum)

The content below is the agreed statement wording, reproduced exactly. No changes have been made to the commitments or procedures.

Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting trauma-informed environments which:

- Ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse.
- Protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm.
- Recognise equality amongst people and within relationships.
- Refuse to condone any form of abuse.
- Enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently in accordance with the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Code of Practice.

We Recognise That

- All forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship.
- Domestic abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional abuse, as well as coercive and controlling behaviour.
- All survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Domestic abuse can occur in all communities.
- Domestic abuse may be a single incident, or a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency.
- Domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour; and the Safeguarding Policy would be followed in the event of a disclosure.
- Working in partnership with children, adults and other statutory agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We Will Endeavour to Respond to Domestic Abuse

In All Our Activities

- Valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse, whilst prioritising the safety of the survivor and refusing to condone the perpetration or continuation of any form of abuse.

In Our Publicity

- Raising awareness about other agencies, support services, and the White Ribbon Network, through providing information in public and single-sex areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

When Concerns Are Raised

- Ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and trauma-informed help.
- Reporting all concerns to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) within 24 hours.
- Working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In Our Care

- Ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.
- Offering the support of a designated "Support Person" to liaise with the Church on the survivor's behalf.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures regularly.

If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone, please contact Parish Safeguarding Officer **Ant Dixon** on **07988 076635** or Deputy PSO **Jamie Mitchell** on **07591 186500**.