

Churches Together in Felixstowe (CTIF) Safeguarding Policy

Churches Together in Felixstowe (CTIF) seeks to share God's love through unity, prayer and community action. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and adults at risk.

(Aligned with Churches Together in England and the Church of England safeguarding standards/policies)

1. Introduction and Purpose

Churches Together in Felixstowe (CTIF) is a local ecumenical partnership made up of representatives from churches across Felixstowe. We seek to promote unity, mutual support, and shared witness through prayer, service, outreach, and fellowship.

CTIF is committed to creating and maintaining a safe, caring environment where all people—especially those who are vulnerable—are treated with dignity and respect and are protected from abuse, neglect, and harm.

This policy sets out the CTIF approach to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and adults at risk in all its activities, meetings, and events.

2. Policy Statement

CTIF believes that:

- a) Every person has value and dignity as made in the image of God.
- b) We have a duty of care to protect all who take part in our activities or events.
- c) Abuse and neglect are contrary to the will of God and never acceptable.

CTIF therefore commits to:

- d) Promoting the safety and wellbeing of children, young people, and adults at risk.
- e) Ensuring that everyone involved in CTIF activities understands their safeguarding responsibilities.
- f) Following the safeguarding guidance and procedures of the Church of England and Churches Together in England.
- g) Working in partnership with statutory authorities, denominational safeguarding officers, and local churches.

3. Scope of this Policy

This policy applies to all CTIF activities.
It applies to all members & member churches.

4. Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities

Moderator: Provides leadership and ensures safeguarding policy implementation.

Safeguarding Officer: CTIF Safeguarding Officer (Lead Support)

Safeguarding Support:

Designated safeguarding support roles (administration and coordination) as agreed by the Steering Group.

National Safeguarding Contacts (Churches Together in England CTE):

Designated Safeguarding Officer (Churches Together in England CTE)

It is expected all ministers connected with CTIF (from all denominations) must be aware of and support the safeguarding expectations outlined in this policy.

5. Ministerial & Denominational Accountability

To ensure clarity and safety across denominations:

- a) All ministers, Steering Group officers, and safeguarding support roles must either:
 - (a) provide evidence of current safeguarding training, or
 - (b) confirm the date of their last completed safeguarding training.
- b) Where possible, ministers should share their denomination's safeguarding oversight procedure for external reporting.
- c) CTIF will maintain a confidential central register of training dates.
- d) Concerns raised will be reported both to the relevant minister and to their home church safeguarding lead, where appropriate.
- e) Appropriate diocesan or denominational oversight structures will be consulted where relevant.

This clarity is essential to ensure accountability across all denominations represented within CTIF.

6. Recognising and Responding to Concerns

Anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding concern must:

- a) Listen and record facts accurately but not asking leading questions.
- b) Report immediately to the CTIF Safeguarding Officer or designated safeguarding support.
- c) Contact emergency services if an immediate risk exists.
- d) Inform the individual's home church safeguarding officer.
- e) Inform the Churches Together in England (CTE) Safeguarding Lead where appropriate.

Confidentiality is essential; information is shared only on a need-to-know basis.

7. Safer Recruitment and Training

- a) All individuals working with children or adults at risk must follow their home church's safer recruitment procedures.
- b) CTIF will request confirmation of DBS checks through the home church, not directly.
- c) Training updates will be reviewed annually.
- d) Safeguarding must appear as a standing item on every Steering Group agenda.
- e) At the first Steering Group meeting of each newly elected committee, safeguarding roles and this policy must be reviewed, updated, and approved.

8. Record Keeping and Confidentiality

- a) All safeguarding records will be stored securely by the designated safeguarding officer.
- b) Records will be shared only with the Moderator, CTIF Safeguarding Officer, relevant safeguarding authorities, and statutory agencies where required.

9. Allegations Concerning CTIF Representatives

If an allegation concerns a CTIF representative

- a) Report immediately to the Moderator and the CTIF Safeguarding Officer.
- b) Inform the home church Safeguarding Officer.
- c) The Safeguarding Officer will inform the Moderator in all cases and any appropriate authorities.
- d) No internal investigation should begin until external guidance is given.
- e) When an incident is reported to a home church the CTIF Safeguarding Officer should receive acknowledgement of the reported incident immediately. Further to actions taken by the home church the CTIF Safeguarding Officer should be informed what action has been taken and of any outcome affecting participation in future CTIF events.

10. Partnership Working

CTIF acknowledges safeguarding as a shared responsibility. This policy complements and does not replace each church's denominational safeguarding policies.

11. Policy Review

- a) The Safeguarding Officer will meet regularly with the Moderator to review the process, procedures or cases.
- b) Any recommendations made or revision of this policy will be brought to the Steering Group first and then for approval at the AGM annually.
- c) Any updates must be recorded in the minutes and circulated.

12. Approval and Adoption

This policy was ratified by Churches Together in Felixstowe at the AGM

Moderator: _____

Date _____

Safeguarding Officer

Jean Macpherson, 27 Queens Road, Felixstowe IP11 7QT

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Date _____