

# Responding to Domestic Abuse Policy

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**All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting 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.
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

**We recognise that:**

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship.
- 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, but is usually 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.
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

**We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by observing the following:**

**In all our activities:**

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**In our publicity:**

- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources, and expertise, through providing information in public and women-only 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 informed help.
- 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.
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone, please contact The Rector, The Wardens or the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)**