



Marygate House Holy Island

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is very important to us. Marygate House is committed to fostering an environment where everyone is able to participate in the life of the house in safety. Marygate House therefore will:

- Recognise the personal dignity and rights of all children and adults as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998 and the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Robustly and consistently implement safeguarding policies, procedures and guidance that conform to the current legislative and guidance framework and accepted best practice.
- Promote a culture which listens to children and adults at risk.
- Properly recruit, train and support all those in positions of trust.
- Ensure that when concerns are raised they are taken seriously and dealt with appropriately.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All involved in the work of Marygate House, including Trustees, employees and volunteers, are persons working in positions of trust within the life of Marygate House, and as such are expected to adhere to this safeguarding policy and associated procedures and practice guidance.

Introduction

Marygate House wants to provide a safe, happy and supportive environment of hospitality and welcome in which all God's people can grow and develop in their Christian commitment.

Those who work for and support Marygate House, whether volunteers or paid, are crucial to ensuring that all people are treated with dignity and respect and valued at all times, whether they be children, adults at risk, adults who are vulnerable in a residential context, survivors of abuse or offenders.

Key principles of safeguarding

Everyone has the right to live their life free from coercion, intimidation or oppression, physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse or neglect. Children and adults at risk have the right to be supported and empowered to achieve well-being and fulfil their potential. The welfare of children and adults at risk is paramount. They have the right to be protected from harm and exploitation.

Any organisation that works with children and adults must ensure that those people are properly cared for and protected. Marygate House undertakes to operating safely and in a manner that complies with relevant legislation and good practice.

To be a Safe Space, we will take all reasonable steps to:

- Create and maintain an open and transparent organisational culture that reflects the importance of safeguarding children and adults at risk.
- Ensure that all who work for Marygate, whether in a paid or unpaid capacity, act responsibly and with integrity; ensuring that their position of trust is upheld and that no advantage is taken of those in their care.
- Ensure that all who work for Marygate are suitable for their roles with children and adults at risk by the careful selection and training, in line with safer recruitment principles.
- Ensure that all public events and activities are organised and delivered safely to a high standard; and with the particular needs of children and adults at risk in mind.
- Ensure that all pastoral care is delivered safely.
- Promote safer practice in all work undertaken with children and adults at risk.



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- Take seriously and respond appropriately to every concern, disclosure or allegation which suggests that a child or adult at risk may have been harmed or could be harmed, including by involving the statutory authorities.
- Ensure that all complaints are handled promptly and robustly in accordance with the law and in line with best practice.
- Ensure that those who have suffered abuse or harm are safely supported within Marygate House, and that we learn lessons from the past to strengthen safeguarding processes.
- Ensure that offenders' rights to access what Marygate offers are observed within the context of robust and proportionate safeguarding agreements.
- Challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- Keep under review our policy, operational procedures and practice guidance.

Putting the policy into action

Marygate House is committed to the adoption and implementation of this policy, which will be reviewed annually at a meeting of the Trustees.

If you have information about a safeguarding situation where a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires urgent medical attention, please call the emergency services on 999 – DO NOT DELAY.

If you think that a child or adult is at risk of harm but is not in immediate danger, please call the Local Authority helpline for Safeguarding: 01670 536 400