



Safeguarding Training Requirements For PCC Members

The Church has an ambition to make a paradigm shift in its relationship with safeguarding. This requires recognition that safeguarding needs to move away from something that is in some respects external/ imposed upon the Church, to something that flows from within the soul of the Church. Safeguarding is at the centre of our faith, in our practice, in our worship, in praying, and in our believing. In other words, safeguarding needs to become integral to the very DNA of the Church rather than an appendage, with good safeguarding behaviours flowing naturally and intuitively. Theology, by which we simply mean clear thinking about God and the faith we share, has been interwoven into all our learning and development pathways.

As the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) identified, this will require a significant shift in the Church's culture. Safeguarding training is part of the process and PCC members have an important role to play in this and so members are required to complete safeguarding training. The safeguarding Learning and Development Framework 2021, learning pathways support participants in developing and maintaining the necessary values, beliefs, knowledge and skills to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults.

In the past, things have happened in churches where people didn't always recognise that something was wrong, or know what to do about it. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, [IICSA Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#), have looked at issues around the Church of England and published reports that show how things can go wrong, [Investigation reports | IICSA Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#). Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, not just vicars/ clergy/ safeguarding officers, you never know what piece of the jigsaw that you might have which could help to prevent or stop abuse of any type and the impact on all concerned. Abuse has a far-reaching and significant impact on those who experience, or witness it, as well as on those connected with them or the situation.

Required Safeguarding Training

Basic Awareness, core pathway - This course aims to provide learners with a basic awareness of safeguarding and enable them to integrate this into their Christian faith and the Church's ministry. (75 minutes)

Foundation, core pathway - Builds on the basic awareness course to enable learners to contribute to, and implement, good safeguarding practice within church and community contexts. (90 minutes)

Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse, issue-based pathway - To develop a greater understanding of what Domestic Abuse is, who it affects, as well as its impact on individuals, children, the wider family, and the community. (90-120 minutes)



Completing Safeguarding Training

The training courses can be completed on the Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal, [Safeguarding Training Portal \(cofeportal.org\)](https://cofeportal.org), at a time convenient for participants. Participants create an account which means that their training is linked to them and certificates are available whenever they are needed. Each course explains the navigation buttons, generally you click an arrow to move on, a button with lines which allows you to read what you have heard but there is also a cup button if you want to pause and take a break. Some people have done the course alongside someone else, with each on their own device, so they can pause and discuss things together while still completing the course individually. Some people who are unfamiliar with technology have asked someone to help them get started if they have access to a device.

For those unable to access the online courses face-to-face training will be possible. There will be courses offered by the diocese and there is also the possibility of local training.

Frequently asked questions

If I already have safeguarding leadership training do I need to do basic awareness and foundation training?

No, although if you have not done them since March 2020 we recommend that you complete them again as things have changed significantly.

How long is training valid and does it have to be repeated?

All safeguarding training is valid for 3 years. Core training is repeated at the highest level required. So basic awareness is only repeated if it is the only safeguarding training required. Issue-based pathways have to be repeated.

Do you have to be a computer expert?

No, just have access to a device and an email address. The most complicated part of the training is setting up the account, as you have to enter a range of information and click on an email to verify that it is correct. You can find instruction on the diocesan website, [Diocese of Leicester | Training and Events \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org/diocese-of-leicester/training-and-events)

What do I do if I share an email with someone else that needs to do training?

The portal help desk can set up an account for you, [Safeguarding: Training Portal: Can I use my spouse or partner's email address to register on the site? \(cofeportal.org\)](https://cofeportal.org/helpdesk/faq/can-i-use-my-spouse-or-partner-s-email-address-to-register-on-the-site/)

If you have any reason to be concerned about completing this safeguarding training for example, because of experience of abuse then please contact Louise Warner Louise.Warner@LeicesterCofE.org or 07729628319 to discuss the best option for you.