

Westminster Abbey Safeguarding responsibilities:

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility and is most effectively undertaken when all are working within their clear roles and responsibilities. Within Westminster Abbey as a whole, safeguarding responsibilities are held ultimately by the Dean and Chapter. Specific safeguarding responsibilities are exercised within the Abbey Church and its ancillary buildings/grounds, including Westminster Abbey Choir School and St Margaret's Church. Specified safeguarding personnel (listed below) hold particular responsibilities for the implementation of safeguarding policy and practice.

Dean and Chapter responsibilities

The Dean and Chapter hold ultimate responsibility for safeguarding policy and its implementation across Westminster Abbey, St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey Choir School and the Abbey's ancillary buildings and grounds.

Westminster Abbey Choir School Governing Body responsibilities

The Governing Body of Westminster Abbey Choir School has responsibility for ensuring that the school's safeguarding policy is up-to-date, conforms to all legal requirements and is being effectively implemented. The Governing Body comprises the Dean and Chapter and a number of suitably qualified lay members.

St Margaret's Church responsibilities

On behalf of the Dean and Chapter, the Rector of St Margaret's Church exercises oversight of all Abbey safeguarding policy and its implementation in St Margaret's Church. The Rector is supported in this work by the lay Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO) at St Margaret's Church.

Roles in safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults

Below are brief details of the principal safeguarding roles undertaken within Westminster Abbey.

Dean and Chapter Safeguarding Lead (D&CSL)

On behalf of the Dean and Chapter, the D&CSL (Canon Steward) exercises general oversight of all safeguarding policy and its implementation across Westminster Abbey, St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey Choir School and the Abbey's ancillary buildings and grounds. The D&CSL works closely with the Abbey Safeguarding Officer, the Designated Safeguarding Lead at Westminster Abbey Choir School, and the Rector of St Margaret's to ensure that consistent and up-to-date standards and implementation of safeguarding policy and practice is in place at all times.

Abbey Safeguarding Officer (ASO)

The ASO is responsible for ensuring that Abbey safeguarding policy and procedures are up-to-date, and are being effectively implemented through the provision of specialist advice, support, training and monitoring. The ASO is responsible for the co-ordination of any concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult, or the behaviour of an adult working with vulnerable groups. Their role is to ensure that these are reported appropriately both to the statutory agencies and through the D&CSL to the Dean and Chapter. The ASO works closely with the Abbey Safeguarding Advisor and the D&CSL to ensure excellent communications concerning safeguarding are maintained within and beyond the Abbey.

Deputy Abbey Safeguarding Officer (DSAO)

The DSAO deputises for the ASO in his/her absence, fulfilling the functions outlined above.

Designated Safeguarding Lead, Westminster Abbey Choir School (DSL)

The Westminster Abbey Choir School DSL fulfils all the legal and pastoral functions of a boarding school Designated Safeguarding Lead, including ensuring that the WACS safeguarding policy is always up-to-date and is being effectively implemented. The DSL is responsible for the co-ordination of any concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult, or the behaviour of an adult working with vulnerable groups. Their role is to ensure that these are reported appropriately to the statutory agencies, to the ASO and through the D&CSL to the Dean and Chapter. The DSL works closely with the ASO and the D&CSL to ensure excellent communications concerning safeguarding are maintained within and beyond Westminster Abbey Choir School and Westminster Abbey.

St Margaret's Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO)

The St Margaret's CSO is a member of the St Margaret's congregation who attends, at least once a year, the Rector's Advisory Committee and the St Margaret's Congregational Consultative Forum to discuss matters pertaining to safeguarding at St Margaret's. The CSO oversees the implementation of the Westminster Abbey Safeguarding policy, together with its associated policies, procedures and guidelines in St Margaret's. They are responsible for ensuring that all allegations or suspicions of abuse are taken seriously, and are reported appropriately to the statutory agencies, to the ASO and through the Rector of St Margaret's to the Dean and Chapter.

The Abbey Safeguarding Advisor (ASA)

Professional safeguarding advice is provided, as necessary, to the those fulfilling the safeguarding roles listed above, by one or more named members of the London Diocesan Safeguarding team.

Westminster Abbey Safeguarding responsibilities:

Who's who

Dean and Chapter Safeguarding Lead

The Canon Steward
The Reverend Anthony Ball
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Tel: 020 7654 4806
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Abbey Safeguarding Officer

Lee Elliott
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Deputy Abbey Safeguarding Officer

The Head of Education
Ms Laura Arends
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Designated Safeguarding Lead,
Westminster Abbey Choir School

The Headmaster
Mr Jonathan Milton
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St Margaret's Church Safeguarding Officer

Rector of St Margaret's Church
The Reverend Jane Sinclair
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The Abbey Safeguarding Advisor

The Diocese of London Safeguarding Advisor
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