

St. Michael's Catholic Church, Ashford

Policy Statement for the Protection of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

The policy of St Michael's Parish, in all aspects of its community life, is to afford proper protection to the children, young people and vulnerable adults who come within its sphere of influence from any kind of physical or emotional abuse by providing them with a safe environment.

We believe in the dignity and uniqueness of each human life, each person's equality with others and the intrinsic rights of the human person. Every person has a right to expect the care, concern, protection and friendship consistent with the doctrine of Christian love to be found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, clergy and parishioners are committed to providing a safe environment which affirms, supports, and nurtures our children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Child Protection Procedures established by the Diocese of Westminster and implemented in St Michael's Parish are intended to minimise all risks to children, young people and vulnerable adults. They are also established to affirm and protect leaders, volunteers and all who work to serve the life of the Parish, by identifying ways in which the clergy and parishioners may protect their own best interests.

All Parish leaders and volunteers are required to read and accept the guidelines established by the Diocese of Westminster and to submit to legitimate scrutiny. By agreeing to the Child Protection procedures of the Diocese of Westminster they both safeguard their own good names and protect the best interests of our Parish's children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Monsignor James Overton
Parish Priest

Mrs Lee Gibson
Parish Protection Representative for Children and Vulnerable Adults

17 December 2005