



RCDOW Safeguarding News



SUMMER – June 2021

Foreword by Geraldine Allen

Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the Diocese of Westminster

Dear PSR,

It has been really good to see you all in our zoom refresher sessions – it is important for us to keep you updated as to the National changes and the new staff in the team.

Please note the new email addresses for the DBS Service; this will ensure we get back to you as soon as possible in response to any queries.

You will have received the questionnaire from the CSSA and we look forward to receiving the collated results. However, we are always keen to hear your feedback so please contact us if you wish.

In the meantime, as Parish activities begin to open up please keep thinking ahead and ensuring activities take place in a safe environment. Wishing you all the very best.

Geraldine Allen

Summertime generally provides us with the opportunity to slow down a little and take stock of our lives. After the past eighteen months of upheaval we have all experienced, there is even more need to do this – to slow down and take stock. Mixed messages about ‘Freedom’ from the coronavirus have raised and dashed our hopes in equal measure this past month. The Euro 2020 football and Wimbledon tennis have been very welcome distractions – but this Sunday will see the finals of both of those sporting events, and once the results are known and celebrated by whoever wins – it will be back down to earth next week. Likewise, when restrictions are lifted, we will all have to navigate our way to a new way of behaving and managing. The temptation might be to rush into this or to think that we can just go back to the way things were pre-Covid. We all appreciate that this cannot be the case. The Italians have a lovely way of expressing this when they use the expression ‘*piano, piano*’ which might be translated into English as ‘softly, softly’. In our efforts to ensure the safety of all those who are put in our care let us ask for the grace to move forward ‘softly, softly’. I wish you all a gentle summertime!

Mgr. Séamus O’Boyle

Episcopal Vicar for Safeguarding

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4 AREAS of PSR's WORK



These are:

- **RESPONDING TO CONCERNS**

PSRs are the first point of contact for the parish community should they wish to disclose a safeguarding concern hence the PSR is responsible to check their dedicated SG email address on a regular basis and at least once a week. Should PSRs become aware of any concern they have to pass this on to the central safeguarding team within the first 24/48 hours of learning about the concern. This is a vital area of work in order to assure an appropriate response to anyone in need of support. The email address can also be set up on the PSR's mobile phone as long as this is secured with safety access codes at all times to enhance third parties' data protection.

- **SAFE RECRUITMENT**

The process of securely recruiting anyone who wish to work/volunteer in the parishes with groups of vulnerable like children and/or adults at risk. This process includes the initial processing of DBS applications including ID verification, interviews, and reference requests for example.

- **CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

An incredibly important part of a PSR's work to be carried out with the collaboration of parish priests, activity group leaders, parish admins and any volunteer in contact with vulnerable groups. It is about knowing and implementing both safeguarding policies and procedures whenever a parish activity especially for children and/or adults at risk takes place. CSAS (Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Services) is the web site to visit and the guidance "Creating a safer environment" should be a central piece of this work with which every person working/volunteering at the parish should be familiar with. This includes use of social media, photographing and videoing, off-site trips, bullying and more. <https://www.csas.uk.net/procedures-manual/#cat-4> Please click on the link to be directed on the page where to find the above mentioned guidance (Procedures Manual – Chapter 4, Creating a safer environment).

- **ADVANCING A "CULTURE OF SAFEGUARDING"**

This part of the work aims at educating the parish communities with a basic understanding of what safeguarding means and does to keep everybody safe from harm and abuse. PSRs should encourage the community to enrol in SG EduCare online modules by contacting Mr Gabriele Sedda at gabrielesedda@rcdow.org.uk to be registered and start/complete these safeguarding courses. Also safeguarding literature should be regularly distributed in the parish. This ranges from leaflets to support survivors of abuse to Alpha Cards to recognise and responding to abuse and more. A so called "safeguarding corner" in the parishes consisting of a small table to keep the literature would be ideal.

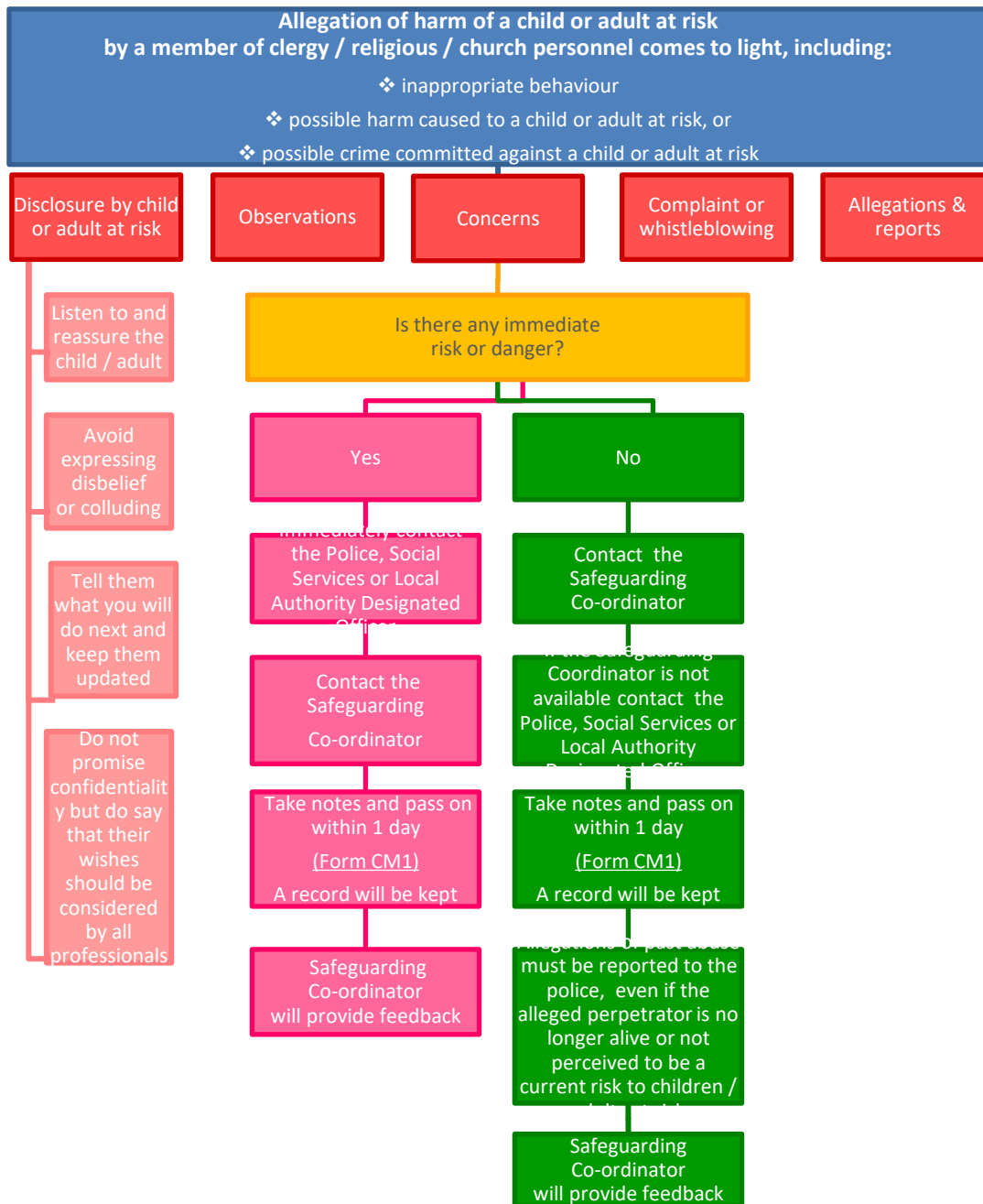


4 AREAS OF PSRs
WORK.docx

RESPONDING TO CONCERNS:

CSAS Flowchart - responding to allegations of abuse or concerns about children and adults at risk

All concerns must be brought to the Safeguarding Representative, who in turn will contact the diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator. Never delay taking action. If you are unable to contact the Safeguarding Representative and/or Coordinator you can contact the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) if you require advice



Please email any concern to: safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk

SAFE RECRUITMENT: DBS Matters

New DBS Administrators

We are pleased to confirm that two new permanent part time staff are now in post to assist with the processing of DBS applications, please find their contact details below:

Johanna Ashley – johannaashley@rcdow.org.uk – 07874 861 060 (Working days: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday)

Euan Brady – euanbrady@rcdow.org.uk – 07874 878 712 (Working days: Monday, Wednesday and Friday)

DBS Team Contact Details

To ensure that your query/application is processed as soon as possible can you use the following email addresses when contacting the DBS team;

dbadmin@rcdow.org.uk – use this for all DBS queries. Please do not copy other team members into this.

dbssubmissions@safeguardrcdow.org.uk – use this to submit your DBS applications.

N.B. This address is for application submissions only.

Changes to the enhanced DBS check application process

Please see below for an update from DBS re the application process. As shown applications will be withdrawn if there are any errors or omissions therefore it is very important that we check the information submitted carefully at the ID verification stage to ensure that all names (specifically middle and previous name) are declared, and the applicants full 5-year address (including flat numbers) history is declared.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-the-enhanced-dbs-check-application-process?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=49d3e789-88b5-462a-9099-f3d8c3c082e3&utm_content=daily

As of 31 May 2021, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) will be implementing a change to the enhanced DBS check application process. The change will mean that DBS is no longer able to amend an applicant's personal information on the application form, once it has been submitted.

For Registered Bodies

If incorrect personal information is provided, or an omission is identified, in relation to the below sections of the application form, from 31 May 2021, the application will be withdrawn, and a new application will be required:

- Section A – Your current and previous names
- Section B – Your current address
- Section C – Five-year address history

For RBs, as before, DBS will contact you to resolve the query, and only if an error or omission is confirmed, will the application be withdrawn.

If an application is withdrawn for the above reasons, a refund will not be given.

Where such an error is found, DBS will not contact the applicant, but will instead write to you as the Registered Body that submitted the enhanced application.

CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT:

Campaign: Safeguarding Sunday

Description:

Safeguarding Sunday is a national campaign which co-ordinated by Thirtyone: eight to raise awareness and understanding of safeguarding within all UK churches by resourcing them to effectively communicate the need for safeguarding within their own congregations, and to highlight and celebrate the things they are doing to create safer places for all so that people can feel, and be, safe.

Vision:

We want to see every church in the UK committed to creating safer places through the implementation of good safeguarding practice.

Campaign goals:

- For every church in the UK to join together throughout October and November to dedicate a Sunday service to focus on safeguarding and commit together to create safer places for all.
- For church attendees of all ages to gain an understanding of what safeguarding is and why it's important, how it fits with Christian teaching, the things their church is doing to make it a safer place; and to know who they can go to within the church with any concerns.
- To bring balance to the largely negative public narrative and image of safeguarding in churches by sharing and promoting the many positive stories of good practice and healthier cultures that are being created with local and national media.

Key activities:

- To make available a range of digital and print resources to equip local churches across all traditions to hold a Safeguarding Sunday service on the second Sunday in October (or a date of their choosing) that is themed around the topic of safeguarding including: Prayers, videos, song ideas, activities, preaching plans and children's activities etc.
- To equip churches to engage local media and to communicate to their local community about the things they have in place.
- To promote and advertise the campaign nationally so churches feel they are connected and taking part in something bigger than themselves.
- To engage national press and media in sharing good news stories and examples of how churches are getting safeguarding right.

Target audience:

All UK churches (via their safeguarding lead) and the wider public.

Campaign impact to date:

The campaign has run for two years in 2019 and 2020 and to date has had around 700 churches signed-up. We'd like to see this grow to every church in the UK taking part. Here is a selection of the feedback we have received so far:

"I've had several people comment to me after Safeguarding Sunday saying it had been helpful to remind them of all our responsibilities, mentioning things they had learnt that had not occurred to them before, and two people came to me to talk about abuse they had experienced as children!"

"Children got to talk about possible situations where they'd need to talk to a grown up. Adults were reminded about their part in keeping vulnerable adults and children safe in our church."

"People told me that hearing about safeguarding helped them to understand more and showed them how they could be included in shaping the safeguarding policy." One church shared that "Safeguarding is really being pushed forward within our Church at present and it is great that we are able to bring everyone on board by holding the Safeguarding Service, so that we feel we really are making it 'everyone's responsibility' and creating a safe environment for all"

Another church Safeguarding Coordinator shared that after holding a Safeguarding Sunday service "two people came to me to talk about abuse they had experienced as children." That's two more people getting the help and support they need because of this campaign.

Frequently asked questions

Questions:

Q: Do we need to DBS our parish administrator?

Q: Any DBS queries?

Q: We are renting our hall to an Irish dancing group however, their SG policies and procedures are not completely satisfactory, what shall we do?

Q: Can we now allow funerals with as many people as possible?

Q: I have submitted a DBS application some time ago but have not yet received notification about its progression.

Q: I would like to have some help in my role as PSR as I may not be at the parish all the times, how can we find someone suitable?

For any additional clarification please write to:

Answers:

A: It depends if they are in regulated activities with groups of vulnerable (children or adults at risk) or not. DBS eligibility check can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dbs-eligibility-guidance>

A: Please send these to the new email address : dbsadmin@rcdow.org.uk

A: Please refer to the HALL HIRE AGREEMENT issued in February that your parish priest can also find on the priests' resource centre. In the agreement, chapter 15. Safeguarding will address all the safeguarding requirements needed prior to the start of activities by an external organisation/group/club working with children/young people or adults at risk in a parish rented hall. If still in doubt where to find the document or for any additional support, please contact Arianna.

A: Please do continue to follow government Covid-19 guidance on funerals and other activities in and around parishes until all the restrictions are officially lifted by the government. More info can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic> (updated 21st June 2021).

A: Please note that we now have a new dedicated email address only for DBS submissions. Jackie and her team – Euan and Johanna – will respond in a timely fashion when you send all DBS submissions to: dbssubmissions@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

A: The PSR and parish priest can advertise the PSR's role in various ways: on the newsletter, with short talks to the community after mass, on social media pages if the parish has these, by word of mouth, on the parish website. The PSR's role description can be found on the RCDOW website at <https://rcdow.org.uk/safeguarding/safe-recruitment-including-dbs/> Once a suitable candidate has been found please send their details to Arianna at the email address below.

ariannasommariva@rcdow.org.uk

ADVANCING A CULTURE OF SAFEGUARDING: E-Learning and other sources

EduCare/TES

In this edition we bring you the first of 5 clips from EduCare/TES about understanding Safeguarding. To watch please click the link here below. The first clip is about “WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING” . We hope that you will find these useful.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWO_WfnRW_U

We sent out links and instructions to all long standing PSRs who participated to the refresher training on 17th June to start and complete the 2 refreshers modules (2020 ones). These modules must be completed before the end of 2021, although the sooner you complete them the better please, so we can update your file accordingly. To access the courses see here below:

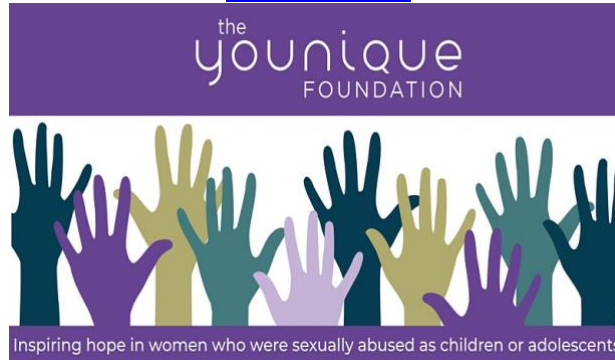
1. Go to www.myeducare.com;
2. Click on the link 'Forgotten your username or password';
3. Where it says 'Search by e-mail address' please enter the e-mail address in the search field and click 'Search';
4. A reset e-mail will be sent back to that address. This can take 5-10 minutes to come through. Through that e-mail, please follow the instructions and set the password to something memorable. The training can then be accessed.

If you need further help please do not hesitate to contact us by writing to mariaeid@rcdow.org.uk

SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

THE AMBER PROJECT WEBINAR CHILD ABUSE LINKED TO FAITH OR BELIEF

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-amber-project-webinar-child-abuse-linked-to-faith-or-belief-tickets-152857864989>



About this event

3 Tools to Help Adults Reclaim Hope After Childhood Sexual Abuse

Whether you are a survivor, the loved one of a survivor, or just someone who wants to make a difference; this online interactive presentation will share tips and resources to help adult female survivors of childhood or adolescent sexual abuse start or continue their healing journey.

Facilitated by The Yunique Foundation and Defend Innocence Outreach Team

This presentation is for survivors and community leaders across a number of sectors:

Concerned Citizens (Anyone who loves and supports a survivor)
Child Advocacy Centres
Education (Schools, Colleges, Universities)
Youth-Serving Organizations
Healthcare Organizations
Behavioural & Mental Health Organizations
Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice
Faith-Based Organizations

Self-Care Note

This presentation will cover sensitive topics including childhood and adolescent sexual abuse and may discuss other adverse or traumatic life experiences. Please consider if this event is appropriate for you at this time. We encourage you to visit yuniquefoundation.org and defendinnocence.org to review healing resources for survivors and prevention and risk reduction resources for families and communities. All Yunique Foundation and Defend Innocence resources are research-based and clinically informed.

About Yunique Foundation & Defend Innocence

The Yunique Foundation was founded to inspire hope in women who were sexually abused as children or adolescents by providing healing services through retreats, support groups, and online resources. Through our prevention arm, Defend Innocence, our mission is to educate and empower parents and caregivers to protect children from sexual abuse through community and online resources. We advocate for open discussions about sexual abuse through community dialogue and social awareness.

For More Information Please Contact: Annie Hartvigsen ahartvigsen@yuniquefoundation.org or Jocelyn Cooper jcooper@yuniquefoundation.org

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/3-tools-to-help-adults-reclaim-hope-after-childhood-sexual-abuse-tickets-161115662283?aff=erelexpmit&keep_tld=1

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

National Changes:

CSAS has now changed to the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency – CSSA. They have appointed a Board which is being chaired by Mr Nazir Afzal. Dr Colette Limbrick has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and has explained that ‘...This enables the CSSA to adopt the current national policies and procedures etc until such time that it is ready to implement the new standards and introduce new procedures where necessary. Between now and the autumn, the CSSA will continue developing its operations and the tools that will support the church bodies that contract with it in due course. Integral to this work is the development of new information sharing agreements that will enable the church bodies to work together in the interests of protecting people’.

The aim is for the CSSA to produce a set of National Standards against which we can self evaluate, and will be audited by the CSSA; we await the publication of the standards.

Ending of the Alignment agreement with Religious Orders:

The implementation of the Elliot recommendation is being worked on, with the Religious orders agreeing to set up the Religious Life Safeguarding Service – RLSS. The staff are currently being appointed to this service. For those of you who are PSR’s in a Parish run by a Religious Order, you will continue to be recruited, trained and supported by the Central Safeguarding Team. The transition process is likely to take over a year so we will consult you once we are clearer as to the arrangements.

Transition of Safeguarding Commission to be a Sub Group of Trustees, chaired by a Trustee.

In order to implement the Elliot recommendation, the work is underway to make these changes. There is a further meeting of the Safeguarding commission on 15th July, after which point we expect to publish the details of the new arrangements.

Completion of National Questionnaire

Thank you to those of you who completed this. We await the collated results being sent to us. We will review them to see what changes we can make to ensure that you are supported as possible.

Parish Visits

Arianna Sommariva and Maria Eid are now beginning to make arrangements to visit Parishes. These visits are intended to assist you to evaluate the effectiveness of the Parish safeguarding arrangements and to offer support to implement any further work. Please contact Arianna or Maria if you feel a visit would be helpful.

CARITAS

Please open here below an email sent by John Coleby, Director of Caritas Westminster regarding volunteering updates and opportunities that you may wish to share with your parish communities.



CARITAS BULLETIN
JULY 2021.docx

VATICAN NEWS

Amoris laetitia: Family brings light in the world

In 10 episodes, one each month, we bring you a video with the Pope's reflections and first-hand testimonies of families from across the world on the theme of the family. The initiative is a joint collaboration between the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, and Vatican News, and aims to 're-read' the Apostolic Exhortation, with the aid of downloadable material prepared for personal and community reflection. Because, as Pope Francis reminds us: being a family is always "primarily an opportunity".

Amoris laetitia

(58-88)

LOOKING TO JESUS: THE VOCATION OF THE FAMILY

58. In and among families, the Gospel message should always resound; the core of that message, the kerygma, is what is “most beautiful, most excellent, most appealing and at the same time most necessary”.⁵⁰ This message “has to occupy the centre of all evangelizing activity”. It is the first and most important proclamation, “which we must hear again and again in different ways, and which we must always announce in one form or another”. Indeed, “nothing is more solid, profound, secure, meaningful and wise than that message”. In effect, “all Christian formation consists of entering more deeply into the kerygma”.



The Vocation of the Family

Download the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life's second guide for personal reflection and communal pastoral ministry.

For full article please click on the link here below:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2021-05/amoris-laetitia-family-brings-light-darkness-world.html>

CONTACT DETAILS the essential

The Central Safeguarding Team:

Episcopal Vicar for Safeguarding:

Name: Rev Monsignor Séamus O'Boyle

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Phone: 020 7226 3277

Safeguarding Coordinator:

Name: Geraldine Allen

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Phone: 020 7798 9350 / 07803 634 236

Safeguarding Officer:

Name: Natalie Creswick

Email: nataliecreswick@rcdow.org.uk

Phone: 020 7798 9359 / 07889 805 284

Safeguarding Officer:

Name: Sarah Robinson

Email: sarahrobinson@rcdow.org.uk

Phone: 020 7798 9186 / 07851 250 897

Safeguarding Officer:

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Email: rebeccawilliams@rcdow.org.uk

Phone: 020 7798 9096 / 07851 250 895

Safeguarding Officer (Review):

Name: Monawara Bakht

Email: monawarabakht@rcdow.org.uk

Phone: 07738183832

PA to Safeguarding Coordinator and Team and SG Commission Admin:

Name: Gabriele Sedda

Email: gabrielesedda@rcdow.org.uk

Phone: 020 7798 9356 / 07851 250 899

DBS Administrator:

Name: Jackie Krobo

Email: jackiekrobo@rcdow.org.uk

Phone: 020 7798 9352 / 07515 329 617

DBS Administrator:

Name: Euan Brady

Email: euanbrady@rcdow.org.uk

Phone: 07874 878 712

DBS Administrator:

Name: Johanna Ashley

Email: johannaashley@rcdow.org.uk

Phone: 07874 861 060

Safeguarding Support Officer:

Name: Arianna Sommariva

Email: ariannasommariva@rcdow.org.uk

Phone: 020 7798 9358 / 07719 563 119

Parish Safeguarding Support Officer:

Name: Maria Eid

Email: mariaeid@rcdow.org.uk

Phone: 07874 878 710

Other Contacts:

Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS)

Email: admin@csas.uk.net

Phone: 020 7901 1920

Website: www.csas.uk.net

National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC)

Website: www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY SUMMER!



Images in this newsletter kindly provided by children and young people of RCDOw parishes. THANK YOU to them all and the adults who helped in organising and delivering this lovely parish communities project.