

What Safeguarding Means Here

@ The Manchester College Oxford Chapel Society

Our Commitment

As a Unitarian congregation, we seek to be a welcoming, inclusive, and caring community. We affirm the worth and dignity of every person and recognise our shared responsibility to look out for one another.

Safeguarding is about helping everyone feel safe, respected, and supported when they take part in congregational life.

Who Safeguarding Is For

Safeguarding applies to:

- **Children and young people** who attend services or activities
 - **Adults** with care and support needs
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What Safeguarding Covers

Safeguarding is about preventing and responding to:

- Harm, abuse, or neglect
- Bullying, harassment, or discriminatory behaviour
- Financial or emotional exploitation
- Situations where someone may be unsafe or taken advantage of

Harm can happen in many ways and may be caused by anyone — including people we know well.

Our Approach

We aim to:

- Treat everyone with **respect, kindness, and compassion**
- Respect personal boundaries and individual autonomy
- Listen carefully to concerns and take them seriously
- Respond in a way that is **proportionate, caring, and responsible**

Safeguarding Is Everyone's Responsibility

You don't need to be an expert. Safeguarding simply means:

- Being attentive to how people are treated
- Trusting your instincts if something feels wrong
- Speaking up if you're worried about someone

If in doubt, it's always better to **share a concern than to stay silent**.

What to Do If You're Concerned

If you're worried about someone's safety or wellbeing:

1. **Listen** – take what you hear or notice seriously
2. **Don't promise confidentiality**
3. **Share your concern** with the Safeguarding Lead

If someone is in **immediate danger**, contact emergency services.

Safeguarding Lead

Our Safeguarding Lead is the first point of contact for concerns.

Name: ARIF KIRMIZITAS

Contact details: safeguarding@oxfordunitarians.org

You can speak to them in confidence. They will decide what action, if any, is needed and may seek advice from appropriate services.