

The United Parish of St Mary the Virgin (Speldhurst), St Martins of Tours (Ashurst) & St Johns the Evangelist (Groombridge) Parish Policy on Safeguarding Children

The following policy was agreed at the United Parochial Church Council meeting held on 20 August 2025

- We are committed to implementing a safeguarding children policy and procedures, accepting as a minimum the House of Bishops' Policy as guided by The Church of England. The Parish will follow the diocesan procedures and recommended good practice.
- We will review and endorse all safeguarding policies annually, at the first meeting of the UPCC annually, so that new members are aware of their responsibilities and confirm the existence of their Parish Policy on child protection.
- The highest standards will be maintained in all the Church's contacts with children and young people, and adult volunteers will be given appropriate support and opportunities for training.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made, that a child or young person informs us about.
- This Parish will cooperate fully with any statutory agencies in every situation and will not conduct its own investigations.
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.
- We will care for and supervise any member of the Church Community known to have offended against a child.
- The United Parochial Church Council of this Parish acknowledges its responsibility for all work with children and young people done in the name of the Church and requires all those engaged in such work to be properly appointed and supported in accordance with current good practice and guidelines issued through the Diocese of Rochester.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Dawn Pottow

Churchwarden (St Mary the Virgin, Speldhurst)

