The House of Prayer

**Safeguarding Statement**

The House of Prayer is committed to fostering a culture of safeguarding, for the care and safety of its visitors, staff, and volunteers.

The Sisters of the Christian Retreat and the House of Prayer subscribe to the safeguarding policy and procedures for safeguarding as outlined by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA).

All employees, volunteers, and spiritual directors acting on behalf of the House of Prayer are mandated to abide by the Catholic Church in England and Wales’ regulations on ‘Mandatory Reporting’ as defined by CSSA.

All employees, volunteers, and spiritual directors are obliged to report any disclosures of abuse to the Safeguarding Officer. The Sisters of the Christian retreat subscribe to the referral body Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS). The Safeguarding Officer is required to report the disclosure to the RLSS.

A disclosure of abuse is one in which it is possible to identify a perpetrator of abuse and must be referred, even if the victim does not wish for this referral to take place. The passage of time, whether the perpetrator had a role within the Church or not, or the death of the perpetrator, have no bearing upon the obligation to report.

A general reference to abuse – in which details are not offered – is not required to be reported to the RLSS

If you have any questions or concerns about the procedure outlined in this statement, please speak with your spiritual director, the Safeguarding Officer at the House of Prayer, Andrew Penson, or Referent and Trustee, Sister Anne Dunne.

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