



Haldon Mission Community Power and Influence and Appropriate Boundaries.

- How can we better promote a healthy and safe church culture?
- Is the PCC complying with the Church of England's safeguarding guidance regarding appropriate boundaries with children and vulnerable adults. (found in the Safer Environment and Activities Guidance)

The core of safeguarding relies on an understanding of the dynamics of power and vulnerability in relationships. Within this context, appropriate boundaries may include:

- Interaction between people (especially if one person has a position of responsibility). This might be face-to-face or online.
- Acceptable touch (e.g. sharing the Peace, or hugs by the Welcome Team).
- Confidentiality.

Why is this important?

All relationships in church should be characterised by generosity, care and kindness. Particular care should be taken when that relationship involves a level of responsibility for/ or authority over others. That responsibility and authority must be exercised in a trustworthy way, acknowledging the power and influence that can be exerted, perhaps even inadvertently.

Thinking about power and influence, which we do briefly below, is at the heart of what safeguarding is about. 1.1.4. Power in relationships.

- The relationship between a person in a position of responsibility in church, and those they minister to is one of power or influence. The relationship is not between equals. Particular care must be exercised, meaning that those in positions of responsibility must be aware of the power and influence they have, and use it in ways that respect and empower others.
- Recognise that power and can act in subtle and quite covert ways, and are not just limited to more obviously domineering leadership styles.
- Maintain clear boundaries in relationships, avoiding using their role to establish relationships of inappropriate intimacy or dependency with those for whom they have responsibility.
- Not use their power to abuse, exploit, bully, intimidate, coerce or undermine.

Please record in the minutes of the PCC meeting that this subject was discussed.

01/02/2025