

ETHICAL FUNDRAISING POLICY

The following policy has been established to ensure our donors receive responsible, fair, and dignified treatment always and in accordance with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Practice. All responsibilities should be carefully carried out when raising funds.

1. THE PURPOSE OF FUNDRAISING

Since New Testament times, raising funds for the life and mission of the Church has been a constant activity (1. Cor. 16; Rom 15:26-28 and Acts 24:17 and 2 Cor. 8-9:15). The life of the Church is almost exclusively dependent on donations and the volunteering of time from parishioners and friends. Our parishes, schools, and other faith centres all engage in fundraising, to which there is an encouraging response. The running costs of parishes are met through parishioner donations. Capital or extraordinary projects lead parishes to run special collections in addition to using Offertory donations which likewise are met with generosity.

The call to serve the most vulnerable members of our society is an ever-present part of our Faith, and fundraising will always be necessary to enable such activities. The generosity of Catholics demonstrates a clear motivation to contribute financially to towards these efforts as an aspect of discipleship: sharing one's own blessings with our brothers and sisters in need as well as giving thanks to God.

Therefore, fundraising in the name of the Church must be faith centred and embody the spirit of true discipleship. The Gospel asks us to reflect on our blessings and give what is proportional to one's ability and resources. All giving flows best from a time of reflection and prayer. It is for each to decide whether to give, how much, and in what form. No form of coercion or pressure is or will be used.

2. OUR PROMISE

The Diocesan Board of Trustees recognises public trust is vital to its mission and the conduct of its fundraising activities should seek to maintain and promote such trust. The Diocese is

registered with the Fundraising Regulator, whose Code of Fundraising Practice provides the framework within which all charities need to operate. It is therefore committed to ensuring:

- fundraising activities undertaken in the name of the Diocese or its parishes are conducted in an ethical manner;
- all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that donors and potential donors are treated fairly and with due respect; and
- those involved in fundraising on behalf of the Diocese or its parishes are alert and responsive to the needs of donors and potential donors who may be in vulnerable circumstances.

3. FUNDRAISING PRINCIPLES

In practice, the following principles are drawn to the attention of all those involved in fundraising on behalf of the Diocese or its parishes.

- All fundraising must be positive in nature and responses met with gratitude.
- Communications with donors and potential donors will be conducted in a manner which is clear, open, honest, and respectful. It is his or her own decision whether to give, how much, and when. No pressure, deadlines, or repeated requests to give will be made as part of one appeal or another.
- Donors' and potential donors' confidentiality will be respected and always safeguarded.
- All personal data will be held securely and in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations. The diocesan Privacy Policy will be referenced when data is collected.
- Personal data will never be passed on or sold to any third party.
- A donor's contact details must be removed from mailing lists and associated databases if they have opted out of further communications.
- All monies raised will be used for the stated purpose for which they are given.
- No-one involved in fundraising, whether directly employed or working in a voluntary capacity shall solicit or accept commissions, bonuses, or payments for fundraising activities on behalf of the Diocese or its parishes without the prior knowledge and consent of the Diocese.
- No approaches for gifts will be undertaken by telephone or door-to-door.
- Donors will be invited to Gift Aid, and where donations are eligible for Gift Aid, this will be claimed.

- All appeals, campaigns, and collections will be clearly identified as to their purpose and all uses of donated funds will be as authorised by the Diocese.
- The Diocese will decline, return, or not knowingly accept a gift from any source clearly inconsistent with the teachings, ethos and values of the Catholic Church, including: from individuals and companies engaged in pornography, prostitution, arms and weapons trade, abortifacients, slave labour, criminal or illegal activities or from any organisation or persons closely associated with human rights violations. The Diocese reserves the right to refuse any gift which would damage the reputation of the church. All Gifts or bequests over £7,500 should be reviewed by the Diocese.
- Those involved in fundraising activities on behalf of the Diocese, whether in a professional (i.e. paid) or voluntary capacity, should use their discretion and judgment to act appropriately in the best interests of each potential donor with whom they come into contact. If it is apparent that a potential donor is not able to make a decision about a donation (for example, that they lack capacity or are in vulnerable circumstances) then the donation should not be accepted. If a volunteer or staff fundraiser reasonably believes that an individual is unable to make a decision due to lack of mental capacity or vulnerable circumstances, they should not accept a donation from that person. If the donation has already been made, and at the time of donating the individual lacked capacity (and the Diocese subsequently receives evidence of this) the donation should be returned.

Examples of indicators which could mean that an individual is in a vulnerable circumstance or needs additional support could include:

- physical and mental medical conditions (both permanent and temporary conditions);
- disability;
- learning difficulties;
- times of stress or anxiety (e.g., bereavement, redundancy);
- financial vulnerability (where a gift from a donor may impact on their ability to sufficiently care for themselves or leave them in financial hardship);
- English not being the donor's first language;
- evident influence of alcohol or drugs; and
- where people live (for example, in supported housing).

4. RESTRICTED DONATIONS

Where donations are received for a specific purpose aligned with our charitable objectives, they will be used accordingly. Where a significant gift (over £7,500) cannot be used according to the donor's intentions we will seek to reach an agreement with the donor about the use of the funds.

5. DONATIONS WITH CONDITIONS

The Diocese can accept donations with conditions provided they comply with the law and diocesan mission and values. If conditions threaten the Diocese's independence or integrity the donation may be rejected.

6. OTHER ORGANISATIONS

This policy applies to fundraising undertaken on behalf of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton and its parishes, and also to any third-party organisations fundraising on our premises. Parishes proposing to make an appeal for a third-party charity or organisation should contact the Vicar General or COO for authorisation. Collections for SPUC are not permitted on Diocesan premises.

7. RAISING PERSONAL FUNDS FOR PRIESTS

Priests are not permitted to solicit money for themselves or engage in any fundraising on their own behalf.

8. CONCLUSION

Fundraising is an integral part of the work of the church; however, it is the practical means to share the Gospel of the Lord and not the objective. The Diocese is committed to maintaining best fundraising practices in all endeavours, showing respect for its donors and the best stewardship of resources given to us voluntarily. The Diocese is dependent on donations, thus the generosity of donors. We strive to observe excellent fundraising practice and stewardship.

9. COMPLAINTS

Anyone who has been contacted or solicited as part of a diocesan or parish fundraising appeal, campaign or other event has the right to register a complaint with the Diocese. Complaints must be specific and cannot be logged anonymously. Please see our [Complaints Policy](#) for the full terms.

Fundraising Regulator – The Code of Fundraising Practice

To read the Code: W: www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code

The Charity Commission

The Charity Commission for England and Wales is the non-ministerial government department that regulates registered charities in England and Wales. You can find the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton here: W: register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk

This policy is due for review by the end of October 2026.