

Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children and Young People

November 2018

The vision of the church is:

To provide a secure framework for the Church in safeguarding our children, young people and adults at risk who are an important part of our church today.

We will listen to them.

As we nurture them in worship, learning and community life, we will respect their views, wishes and feelings.

In fulfilling this vision the church will ensure that:

- ✚ All our children, young people and adults at risk are kept safe and free from harm.
- ✚ There are provisions and policies in place to enable children, young people and adults at risk to feel safe and adopt safe practices.
- ✚ All adults are aware of the expected behaviours and the Church's legal responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children, young people and adults at risk..

The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children and young people under the age of 18 (regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability) as set out in The Children Act 1989 and 2004, *Safe from Harm* (H.M. Government 1994) and *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (H.M. Government 2010).

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all children, young people and adults at risk associated with the church and will pray for them regularly.

In pursuit of this we commit ourselves to the following policies and to the development of procedures to ensure their implementation.

Prevention and reporting of abuse

It is the duty of each church member and of all the wider church family to prevent abuse of the children, young people and adults at risk whether that abuse is physical, emotional, sexual, financial, discriminatory, institutional, spiritual or caused by neglect.[see Appendix 1]

It is therefore the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children, young people and adults at risk and to report any concern of abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected.[see Appendix 2 and Appendix 3]

The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

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Respecting children , young people and adults at risk and the church family

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children ,young people and adults at risk so that they are shown the respect due to them.[Appendix 4]

The children, young people and adults at risk will also be expected to respect all the church family, young or old.

Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children ,young people and adults at risk whether paid or voluntary. All adults working with our children, young people and adults at risk will have a current Disclosure and Barring Service check.

All workers will be given the training to promote the safeguarding of children at least every three years.

Designated Persons for Safeguarding and the Safeguarding Trustee will receive further safeguarding training at least every two years to update their understanding and awareness of the impact of safeguarding issues.

All adults will work in teams of two or more when working with children, young people, adults at risk and out in the community. [e.g. CAP, Pastoral support, Living Room]

Safe working practices

The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children , young people and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working that promote safety and well-being.

Lone working: It is acknowledged that at times adults will need to be working alone-unlocking premises, setting up activities, meeting individuals confidentially. Adults are expected to ensure another adult is aware of where they are and check in regularly with them.

A safe community

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying of children , young people and adults at risk. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any who pose a risk to children ,young people and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

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Responsible people

The church has appointed **Denise Jackson** as the **Safeguarding Trustee** to:

- ❖ oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees

The church has appointed Denise Jackson and Megan Mynhart as the **Designated Persons for Safeguarding**. They are the persons to contact if anyone has concerns about any of the children.

They would then:

- ❖ Read the written record of the allegation, disclosure or incident.
- ❖ Take the appropriate action.

Policy and Procedures

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the notice board on the Sanctuary landing.

Each worker with children ,young people and adults at risk will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and will be required to follow them.

A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any of the church family as well as occasional visitors.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually.

The policy will be read out annually at the church meeting in November together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.