SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR BLOXHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Our Mission
To be fully engaged with God in his mission to bless the whole earth.

Our Vision
To be a movement of disciples of Jesus Christ who reveal the good news of God's kingdom to the watching world.

In fulfilling this vision, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Run activities for children and adults at risk

Our safeguarding responsibilities

The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

- **Prevention and reporting of abuse**

  It is the duty of each church member and members of the wider church family to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures. The church will fully cooperate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

- **Safer recruitment, support and supervision of workers**

  The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children and adults at risk.

- **Respecting children and adults at risk**

  The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children and adults at risk so that all children and adults are shown the respect that is due to them.

- **Safer working practices**

  The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

- **A safer community**

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

Safeguarding contact points within our church

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team:

Anne Linsey: Temporary Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) children, young people and adults at risk.
First point of contact. They will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. Liaises with SCBA Safeguarding lead and with statutory authorities
Email address: safeguarding@bloxhambaptist.org

Rachel Mitchel, Children and Families pastor
They will assist the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) in helping the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.
Phone number: 07951 737 606 Email address: childrenspastor@bloxhambaptist.org

Anne Linsey, Safeguarding Trustee and DBS Verifier
They will also organise DBS checks for staff and volunteers, check identity documents and record outcomes.
Phone number: 07947 747 276 Email address: churchsecretary@bloxhambaptist.org

Mike Tydeman, Church Minister is also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team.
Phone number: 07803 700 198 Email address: Mike@bloxhambaptist.org

Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise. They will assist the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) in helping the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement is available on our church website.
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given access to a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- The policy statement will be read annually at the church meeting, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

Signed…….. Designated Person for Safeguarding

Date……..