

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR BOVINGDON BAPTIST CHURCH

Our mission is:

To love God more, to love each other more and to love our neighbours more.

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
- Make our premises available to organisations working with 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 to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of each church member 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 co-operate 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. **Bovingdon Baptist Church places importance on valuing and respecting each other even in disagreements.** We 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:

Jacqui Donley Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)

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.

Phone number: **07368 322 363 (Church mobile - request callback from Jacqui Donley)**

Email address: **dps.bovingdonbaptist@gmail.com**

Katie Chamberlain Safeguarding Trustee

They will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees.

Email address: **safeguarding.bovingdonbaptist@gmail.com**

Our church minister is also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise. 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 will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard and church office and is available on our church website.
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given 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 AGM, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

SAFEGUARDING INCIDENT FORM

PERSON REPORTING THE INCIDENT OR CONCERN:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Role in Church: _____

DETAILS OF CHILD / ADULT AT RISK YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT:

Name: _____

Date of Birth / Approximate Age: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Do they know that you are sharing concerns about them? _____

If not, please explain why: _____

IF UNDER 18 PLEASE INCLUDE DETAILS OF THE PARENT OR CARER:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Relationship to the child/ young person: _____

Do they know that you have concerns that you are sharing? _____

If not, please explain why: _____

DETAILS OF ALLEGED PERPETRATOR (IF RELEVANT)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Are they an adult or a child (under 18): _____

Relationship to the child/adult at risk: _____

Does the child / adult at risk live with the alleged perpetrator? _____

DETAILS OF INCIDENT OR CONCERN:

- Remember to include the 4 W's – Who, What, Where, When.
- Be clear whether this is something you have been told about or something that you have observed directly.
- Include names of anyone else who witnessed the incident or is aware of the concern.
- Refer to the church safeguarding policy if you are unsure what to include.

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

HAVE YOU CONTACTED ANYONE ELSE (SOCIAL SERVICES, POLICE, LADO, REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING LEAD, MINISTER)?

Please give details of who and when below:

Organisation: _____

Name of contact: _____

Date of contact: _____

This Incident Form should be passed to the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) within 24 hours of any incident or concern arising. Do not delay reporting your concerns to the DPS because you do not have all the information requested in this form. Where there is an immediate risk of harm, please call the DPS straight away and use this form to follow up on that call. Remember if they are not available call the police or social services, do not wait for the DPS to be available.

Remember: Treat this information confidentially. Do not discuss the contents of this form with anyone other than the DPS, not even for prayer purposes.

Signed

Date



**This policy has been produced for use in Baptist churches in England and Wales.
Policy last updated: May 2023**