

Policy Statement On Safeguarding Children and Young People in The Church

Kislingbury and Upton Baptist Church

The vision/purpose of the church is to continue to grow and seek to live our lives in line with Christ's teaching. We are a place where Jesus is the focus, where everyone is valued and we seek to be a blessing to our communities, bringing the love of Jesus to everyday life.

In fulfilling this vision/purpose the church

- has a programme of activities with children
- welcomes children and young people into the life of our community

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' (HM Government 1994) and 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (HM Government 2010).

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all children and young people 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 each member of the wider church family to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people and the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and young people and to report any child abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers

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

Respecting children and young people

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children and young people so that all children and young people are shown the respect that is due to them. Each volunteer will be given the code once the necessary checks have been completed and a copy will be displayed on the notice board alongside the policy.

Safe working practices

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

E - safety

- Any photographs taken for purposes within Kidzchurch will only be taken if the permission of parents is given and only displayed within the church premises. In the event of special occasions, e.g. Christmas, when parents may wish to take photographs, they will be reminded that these should not be posted on social media sites, especially if the photograph includes other children.

Responsible people

The church has appointed Bruce Furniss 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 Beverley Peck as the Designated Person for Safeguarding to:

- advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and young people
- take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

The Minister has overall responsibility for the church and would be informed if there was any safe guarding issue raised and would organise and co-ordinate pastoral care for all involved, but not provide all the care themselves.

Policy and procedures

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the notice board in the meeting room at the back of the church building. There will also be a safeguarding poster giving the names of the people named in the previous section.

Each worker with children and young people whether paid or voluntary 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 member of the church, the parents or carers of any child or young person from the church or any other person associated with the church.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually.

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

Reviewed by Bev Peck
March 2016