

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR WHITSTABLE BAPTIST CHURCH** *(referred to as “the church”)*

### **Our Mission statement**

*“As followers of Jesus we seek to be a centre of Christian Worship, Fellowship and Service by nurturing our own Church family and reaching out with fellow Christians to the whole community.”*

As an integral part of that goal, we provide a range of activities for children and young people and we endeavour to support pastorally the families we have contact with through our activities.

### **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 a Church Leadership, Membership and Congregation 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. 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:

### **Mrs Margaret Frame, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)**

She 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.

This is a key role in enabling the Church to respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns and disclosures; to be responsible for ensuring that safeguarding concerns are taken seriously, carefully recorded and referred to BU/SEBA as appropriate and disclosures of abuse referred as quickly as possible to Social Services/Police. Reporting to the DBS and Charity Commission may also be required and the DPS will be responsible for doing this in accordance with set procedures as advised by the Churches Agency for Safeguarding.

She will be the main contact point for safeguarding issues emerging directly from our activities and the work of our employees and volunteers. She will liaise closely with the Safeguarding Trustee.

Phone number 01227 794489

Email address [margaretframe@sky.com](mailto:margaretframe@sky.com)

### **Mrs Jean Myhill, Safeguarding Trustee**

She 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. She will promote appropriate training; highlight our safeguarding procedures to ensure staff and volunteers are fully conversant with them; monitor implementation and promote best practice; ensure safe recruiting procedures, receive reports and liaise with the DPS. She will undertake these crucial duties with the purpose of ensuring the welfare and safety of all those who take part in our activities.

She is responsible for ensuring that pertinent and legally permissible questions are asked on relevant employment and volunteer applications or at interviews. It will be made clear that any offer of appointment or confirmation of appointment, either as an employee or volunteer, is subject to a criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service and a probationary period. Whilst a criminal record will not automatically bar a person from being offered a post, all appointments will be governed by considerations relating to the nature of the post, the overall suitability of the candidate and the overriding desire to safeguard and promote the welfare of those being served.

Phone number 01227 277297

Email address [Jean\\_Myhill.gov@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Jean_Myhill.gov@hotmail.co.uk)

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 and procedures will be displayed on the church noticeboard, and is available on our church website.
- 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 circulated annually at the church AGM, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.