

# Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children in the Church

## Whitstable Baptist Church

(referred to as “the church” in the Policy Statement)

This statement was agreed at the church meeting on 26 May 2016

It will be read annually at the church meeting held in the month of May where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

### 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

- The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all 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 a Church Leadership, Membership and Congregation, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all children and young people associated with the Church. We will teach them Biblically and will pray for them regularly.
- It is the duty of each church member to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children 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.
- The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.
- The church is committed to the prevention of bullying of children. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any who may pose a risk to children and young people in the community of the church is managed appropriately.
- The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, whether paid or volunteer. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children.
- The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children so that all children are shown the respect that is due to them.
- The church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice *Safe from Harm* and adopts the guidelines and procedures published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its publication *Safe to Grow* (revised edition).
- Each worker with children and young people must know the recommendations and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the church’s agreed procedures and Good Practice guidelines.

As part of our commitment to children and young people the church has appointed:

### **Mrs Margaret Frame as Designated Person for Safeguarding (01227 794489)**

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

### **Rev. Paul Wilson, Safeguarding Trustee/Deacon (01227 273849)**

He will oversee and monitor the implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees.