

POLICY STATEMENT

On

Safeguarding Children and Young People in the Church

PARSONS HEATH BAPTIST CHURCH (formally Wycliffe)

(henceforth referred to as “the Church”)

The vision/purpose of the church is....”To serve God and to bring all into a living relationship with His Son Jesus”.

In fulfilling this vision/purpose the church

- Has a programme of activities with children and young people
- Welcomes children and young people into the life of the church

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 of 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. All workers whether church members or otherwise will submit themselves to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check every five years or as deemed appropriate by the Advocates and Deacons / trustees.

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.

Safe Working Practices

The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children and young people and will adopt ways of working with children and young people that promote their safety and wellbeing

A Safe Community

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

Responsible People

- The church has appointed Mr Richard Hudson as the Designated Person for Safeguarding to report to and liaise with exterior bodies such as The Charities Commission, Social Services , Police and the Eastern Baptist Association in regard to matters concerning Safeguarding.
- The Church has also appointed two Advocates to oversee and monitor the implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees
- Also to advise the church on any matters related to safeguarding of children and young people
- To take appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.
- The Advocates will submit themselves to re-appointment annually at the Annual Church Meeting

Policy and procedures

A copy of this policy statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboards in the church hall and in the church lobby

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

A full copy of the policy and procedures will also be made available on reasonable request to any organisation or representative of any organisation that may reasonably require it.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed at least annually

The policy statement will be read annually at the church Annual General Meeting (AGM) normally held in **March** together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.

SIGNED..... DATE.....