

POLICY STATEMENT OF SELSDON BAPTIST CHURCH

on Safeguarding Children and Young People in the Church

(taken from *Safe to Grow* 2011 edition produced by the Baptist Union)

The vision of the church is to be 'learning to love God and serve the community'. In fulfilling this vision we

- have a programme of activities with children and young people
- welcome children and young people into the life of our community
- make our premises available to organisations working with children and young people.

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 and neglect of children and young people and to report any child abuse and/or neglect disclosed, discovered or suspected immediately and only to the Designated Safeguarding Person, Mrs Evelyn Golder. 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. Those involved with the youth of the church will follow the guidelines on the use of IT and social networking sites as in section 13 of *Safe to Grow*.

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 well-being.



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 who may pose a risk to children and young people in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

Responsible people

The church has appointed Mrs Theresa Nichols as the Safeguarding Trustee to:

- oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees (i.e. the Diaconate).

The church has appointed Mrs Evelyn Golder as the Designated Safeguarding Person (formerly known as the 'Children's Advocate') and Mrs Joy Harris (AR) as her assistant to:

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

Policy and procedures

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboard in the corridor in the upper halls at Addington Road.

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 at least annually.

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

ADOPTION OF POLICY BY THE CHURCH MEMBERS' MEETING

This policy was re-adopted on 16th September 2019

Signed (Chair of Members' Meeting)

