

Policy Statement

Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk at Kenton Baptist Church

In fulfilling its purposes, the church

- welcomes children and adults at risk into the life of our community.
- has a programme of activities for children and adults at risk.
- makes our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk.

The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

As members of this church, 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 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 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.

Responsible people

The church secretary, **Karen Hogge** is the Safeguarding Trustee overseeing and monitoring the implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees.

The church has appointed **Ann Woodgate** as the Designated Person for Safeguarding, and **Beryl Howlett** as deputy, to:

- Advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk.
- Take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

The church minister, **Rev. Steve Cochrane**, is also a member of the Church Safeguarding Team. Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

Policy and procedures

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboards in the Church, Youth Hall & East Hall foyers.

Each worker with children and/or adults at risk whether paid or voluntary, will be shown a full copy of the policy and procedures which will be available from the church office 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 from the church or any other person associated with the church.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed at least annually and reported on at the church's Annual General Meeting.

April 2023