

WALSWORTH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH HITCHIN



SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

Children and Young People

The term 'child or young person' refers to anyone under the age of 18 years.

Adult at Risk

There is no standard single definition for an adult at risk, so for our policy we are using the following simple definition taken from Thirtyone:eight (Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service):

'Any adult aged 18 or over who due to disability, mental function, age, illness or traumatic circumstances may not be able to take care or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation'.

Worker

The term "worker" refers to any paid staff or safely recruited volunteers who work with children or adults at risk.

SECTION 1 - SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR WALSWORTH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

Our Mission

The mission statement of Walsworth Road Baptist Church is:

Sharing life together, showing love to all, because Jesus is good news today.

In fulfilling this mission, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Run activities, both online and in person, for children and adults at risk
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk

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 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 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 cooperate 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 Conduct 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 *(This is available on the church website)*.

- **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:

VACANCY - Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)

They will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk.

Email address: safeguarding@wrbchitchin.org.uk

HELEN BAINBRIDGE, Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS)

They will assist the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) in helping 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.

Phone number 07754 836012

Email address youthworker@wrbchitchin.org.uk

DIANA SELLER, Safeguarding Trustee (SGT)

They 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.

Phone number 07793 056155

Email address dianaseller@gmail.com

AMANDA MAYLIN, Deputy DPS / Admin Support for SGT

They will assist the Safeguarding Trustee in helping the church monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures.

Phone number 07799 905997

Email address ajmaylin@gmail.com

Our Church Minister (minister@wrbchitchin.org.uk) and Church Worker (churchworker@wrbchitchin.org.uk) are 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.

Further definitions of these roles can be found in the BUGB publications 'Safe to Grow' (2011) & 'Safe to Belong' (2015), Model Safeguarding Policy & Procedures (Jan 2023) and BUGB Guide to Role of DPS (2017 reviewed 2021).

Helpful numbers

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Team
01992 588757
admin.hscb@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Police
Contact 101, or 999 in an emergency

Adult Social Services

0300 123 4042 At anytime

Children's Social Services

0300 123 4043 At anytime

CBA Safeguarding Lead
Gillian Jones
07729 688791

safeguarding@centralba.org.uk

Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of this safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the notice boards in the Richard Johnson Room, lower church hall and welcome area, and the full policy statement, procedures and best practice guidelines will be available on our church website and as a hard copy in the church office.
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given a copy of this safeguarding policy statement and relevant procedures/guidelines and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them.
- The policy and procedures will follow the guidelines set out in BU 'Model Safeguarding Policy and Procedures' (Jan 2023).
- The policy, procedures and best practice guidelines will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- This policy will be reaffirmed annually at a church meeting (usually March), together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

Signed: Andrew Henton Pusey

Name: ANDREW J. HENTON PUSEY

Position: Minister

Date: 19 March 2025