

POLICY STATEMENT on Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk in the Church **Hendon Baptist Church** (referred to as “the church” in this Policy Statement)

The vision of the church is to see God honoured as we wholeheartedly follow the Lord Jesus Christ and build a vibrant and multicultural church that blesses the world around us. In keeping with this vision the church:

- Welcomes children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Runs activities for children and adults at risk The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children (regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability). For the purpose of this policy, the term ‘child’ refers to anyone under the age of 18 years.

There is no standard single definition for an adult at risk, so for our policy we are using the following simple definition taken from CCPAS (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’.

Our safeguarding responsibilities

The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children 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. We will maintain the attitude: “It could happen here”.

• 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 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.

Safeguarding contact points within our church

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team:

NAME: Lindsay Jacobs, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)

Lindsay will advise 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 07903 650201/020 8203 4041

Email address hbc_safeguarding_lead@outlook.com

NAME: Mike Gardner, Safeguarding Trustee

Mike 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 07551 643456 Email address

hbc_safeguarding_trustee@outlook.com

NAME: Viviyana Omokoh and Jermaine Omokoh, Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS)

Viviyana and Jermaine 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 07387 175291 and 07830 590351

Our church minister is also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. Errol can be contacted on 07903 650202/020 8203 4041 and

hbc_safeguarding_pastor@outlook.com Where possible, the Church Safeguarding

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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 found on [The Baptist Union of Great Britain : BUGB Guides](#). We will follow the guidelines in the Government Publication “Working Together to Safeguarding Children” (2023).

Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard in the sanctuary, in the hall and on our church website.
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- The policy statement will be read annually together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review