

## **Well Street United Church Statement of Safeguarding Principles**

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Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of humans in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

### **Principles**

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- safeguarding and protecting of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- establishing safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every safeguarding concern which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, working in partnership with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

Working with the District Safeguarding Officer we will seek support risk assessment of those who present a safeguarding risk within a church environment. We will ensure pastoral care is offered and measures are taken to address identified risks including referral to statutory agencies, suspension and the use of safeguarding contracts. We will recognise and apply the restrictions to appointment laid down in Standing Order 010 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Any safeguarding concerns in relation to a child or an adult or any concerns regarding the conduct of a member of staff or volunteer should be brought to the attention of the Church Safeguarding Officer or in her absence the Minister or one of the Elders	
Well Street Safeguarding officer	Sue Ioannou
Contact telephone number	07543712920
Email	wellstreetsafeguarding@gmail.com