

Saltash Baptist Church (referred to as “the church” in the Policy Statement)

The purpose of the church is to evangelise our community and beyond, to encourage people to become more Christ-like through discipleship and we are committed to meeting the needs of those inside and outside our walls through ministry. We value fellowship and will come before the Lord in obedience to worship Him.

In fulfilling this purpose the church

- has a programme of activities with children and young people
- welcomes children and young people into the life of our community
- makes 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 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping 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.

1. Prevention and reporting of abuse

It is the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and to report any child abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

2. 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 volunteer. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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 Michelle Heighway** as the Safeguarding Trustee to oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees.

The church has appointed **Mrs Christine Griffiths** as the Designated Person for Safeguarding to:

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

To contact please ring 07908 270674(Christine) or 07808 899607 (Michelle)

Pastoral care

The Church will ensure that in cases where abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected, appropriate pastoral care is provided (either from within the Church or externally) for both alleged victim(s) and/or alleged abuser(s).

Availability of policy and procedures

The Safeguarding Children Policy will be read out to the Annual General Meeting of the Church, together with a report on the outcome of the annual review. Copies of the Safeguarding Children Policy will be displayed permanently in the Church upper hall and in the lower hall and will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church, their parent or their carer.

Each group leader with children and young people will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and will be required to read and follow them.

Michelle Heighway

Signed (Church Secretary)

Date Review date March 2021