



SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

Stapleford Baptist Church is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk; to protect them from abuse; to listen to them, and to do all within our power to ensure their well being. As a church community we will:

- offer a safe, loving and caring environment in which everyone knows that they are valued as they enjoy church life
- support all those in our church congregation who suffer abuse
- nurture families and support parents
- recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect of children and young people under the age of 18
- recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, financial, discriminatory abuse or neglect of adults at risk
- empower children and adults to tell us if they are being harmed
- exercise informed vigilance by following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and adults, and good practice recommendations
- support the Safeguarding Co-ordinator in their work and in any action that needs to be taken
- report to the appropriate agency any abuse that is disclosed or which we suspect
- exercise duty of care in the appointment of those who work with children and vulnerable adults
- support the training and mentoring of the workers whom we appoint
- keep up to date with safeguarding requirements
- supervise any who pose a risk, supporting them whilst also remembering the paramount need for the welfare of the child
- source relevant support for anyone considered too great a risk to be allowed to continue safely attending our church services
- build constructive links with the relevant statutory and voluntary authorities
- endorse and follow all national and local safeguarding legislation and procedures, in addition to International Conventions.
- ensure that the premises meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation, and that it is welcoming and inclusive
- adopt and follow the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service

- recognise that Children's Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child
- recognise that Adult Social Care (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult with care and support needs
- contact the police as a matter of urgency where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed
- review this policy at agreed intervals to ensure that it remains compliant with statutory requirements

**If you would like to see our full Safeguarding Policy please contact the Stapleford Baptist Church
Designated Safeguarding Lead at: sbcsafeguarding@gmail.com**