

## Safeguarding Policy - Section 1: Safeguarding Policy Statement

Our vision at Maidstone Road Baptist Church is: **“Helping people follow Jesus, serving the community in Jesus’ name”**.

In fulfilling this vision, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Run activities 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 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 safety and well-being of children and adults at risk.

- **Respecting children and adults at risk**

The church will adopt Safeguarding Procedures and Best Practice Guidelines 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:

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| <b>Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)</b><br>Mick Warner         | He 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:<br>07484 285700. | Email address:<br><a href="mailto:mick.warner@btinternet.com">mick.warner@btinternet.com</a> |
| <b>Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS)</b><br>Tim Leeming | He 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 in taking the appropriate action. | Phone number:<br>07807 313307. | Email address:<br><a href="mailto:leemingt@hotmail.co.uk">leemingt@hotmail.co.uk</a>         |
| <b>Safeguarding Trustee</b><br>Mick Warner                             | He 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:<br>07484 285700. | Email address:<br><a href="mailto:mick.warner@btinternet.com">mick.warner@btinternet.com</a> |

Our church minister is 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.

### Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed on the church noticeboard, kept in the church office, and is available 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 required to follow them. Updated policies and procedures will be given out when changes are made.
- 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.
- A summary of the policy statement will be read annually at the church AGM.

This Safeguarding Policy document and associated MRBC Safeguarding information booklet are a key part of induction training for all those working with children and adults at risk, and they are given to all workers, who are asked to confirm (usually by signature or by email response) that they have read the information. The documents are annually reviewed and updated as necessary.

Reporting forms, permission forms and guidance on their completion is in a separate document. This is accessible in the church building or online for workers to complete. Information on where this is kept is available from the Minister: Mark Reid, the Safeguarding Trustee Mick Warner, or the Designated person for Safeguarding (DPS). Contact information is above.