



SAFEGUARDING POLICY
UPTON VALE BAPTIST CHURCH
JUNE 2025

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INTRODUCTION

This policy is based on guidelines put together by the Baptist Union of Great Britain which were last updated in January 2023. It is to be used in conjunction with the 'Safeguarding Procedures'.

Excellence in Safeguarding

We have set the goal of 'Excellence in Safeguarding.' We pray that this resource will provide a helpful tool on the journey to this goal. Further information, guidance and resources can be found on the Baptists Together website at www.baptist.org.uk/safeguarding

Annual Review

We undertake to review the safeguarding policy, procedures and practices on an annual basis.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

For the purpose of this guide, 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 Thirtyone:eight:

'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'.

SECTION 1 – SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR UPTON VALE BAPTIST CHURCH

Our vision

The vision statement of Upton Vale Baptist Church is: To help people join the dots between who Jesus is and how we live. A community of people being changed by Jesus to bring change to the world.

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 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:

Susan Fordyce, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)

They 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 07773440816 Email address - safeguarding@uptonvale.org.uk

Suzanne Wesley, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)

They 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 07909808921 Email address - safeguarding@uptonvale.org.uk

Kathy Farnum, Safeguarding Trustee

They 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 07455699990 Email address - kathy.farnum@uptonvale.org.uk

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.

(Further definitions of these roles can be found in UVBC Safeguarding Procedures Appendix 4 – Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities)

Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard in 'The Link' (The main entrance to our church), and 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 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.
- Key points and people associated with the Safeguarding Policy, and how to access the Policy Statement, will be presented annually at the AGM, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.