



Safeguarding Policy Statement

Purley Baptist Church will be referred to as “the church”.

The vision of the church: Building authentic, courageous, generous Christian community.
In fulfilling this vision the church:

- will welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- has a programme of activities with children and adults at risk
- makes our premises available to organisations (on occasion) working with children and adults at risk

The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of 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 their implementation.

PREVENTION AND REPORTING OF ABUSE AND RESPONDING TO CONCERN

It is the duty of each church member to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of each 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.

SAFE RECRUITMENT, SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION OF WORKERS

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of all paid and voluntary workers ensuring they have an Enhanced DBS Disclosure. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding 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 at risk are shown the respect that is due to them.

SAFE 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 SAFE COMMUNITY

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any who may pose a risk to children, young people and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE

The church has appointed **Mark Humm** as the Safeguarding Director to:

- 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's charity directors

The church has appointed **Ian Rubie** and **Linda Davies** as the Designated Persons for Safeguarding to:

- take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected and advise the church leadership, as appropriate, on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk
- to report any disclosure and any subsequent action taken to the Minister/s and Safeguarding Director, as appropriate and agree, with them subsequent pastoral support for the child or adult at risk, ensuring the child's or adult-at-risk's views, wishes and feelings are respected.

The Safeguarding Team currently comprises of the above-mentioned individuals plus Marilyn Webb, Wendy Colpus, Sam Ackerman and Mike Vamvadelis.

PUTTING OUR POLICY INTO PRACTICE

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboard in the Lower Hall Lobby and is available on our website.

Each worker with children and/or adults at risk whether paid or voluntary will be given access to the Safeguarding Policy & Procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they have read and will follow them.

A full copy of the Safeguarding Policy & 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 at least annually and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.

The Policy Statement will be reviewed annually at the Church Members' Meeting in November together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.