

# Safeguarding Children and Young People in the Church

## Policy statement



In fulfilling its vision and purpose, the Church:

- Has a program of activities with children and young people
- Welcomes children and young people into the life of our community

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's Act 1989 and 2004, 'Safe from Harm' (HM Government 1994) and 'Working together to safeguard children' (HM Government 2010).

As members of this Church we commit ourselves:

- To the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all children and young people associated with the Church and to pray for them regularly
- To the following policies and to the development of procedures to ensure their implementation

### 1. Prevention and reporting of abuse

It is the responsibility of each Church member and each member of the wider Church family to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people, and the duty of all to respond to concerns about the wellbeing of children and young people, 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 voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to support the safeguarding of children.

### 3. Respecting children and young people

The Church will adopt a code of behaviour for all those 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 within the community of the Church is managed appropriately.

### Responsible people

The Church has appointed **Rob Biersteker** as the *safeguarding trustee* to oversee and monitor implementation of policy and procedures on behalf of the Church's charity trustees.

The Church has appointed **Fi McLachlan** as the *designated person responsible for safeguarding*, to:

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

### Policy and procedures

A copy of this policy statement will be displayed permanently on the notice board in the corridor at Sussex Road.

A full copy of the policy and procedures:

- Will be given to each worker with children and young people whether paid or voluntary, who will be required to follow them
- Will be made available on request to any member of the Church, the parents and carers of any child or young person from the Church or any other person associated with the Church.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed at least annually by the Church's charity trustees.

The policy statement will be read annually to the Church members at the AGM together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.

Note: In this document, "the Church" refers to Haywards Heath Baptist Church (registered charity number 1131365)