

AMESBURY BAPTIST CHURCH



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

'Our mission is to bring the people of the Amesbury area to a lifelong knowledge and love of Jesus Christ' Amesbury Baptist Church Motto In fulfilling this mission, this church:

- welcomes everyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or ability
- has a programme of activities with children and young people
- makes our premises available to organisations working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children and young people under the age of 18 as set out in the 'Children Acts 1989 and 2004', 'Safe from Harm' (HMG 1994) and 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (HMG 2015).

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 will pray for them regularly. In pursuit of this we commit ourselves to the following policies and to the development of procedures to ensure their implementation.

PREVENTION AND REPORTING OF ABUSE

It is the duty of each member of Amesbury Baptist Church and each member of the wider church family to prevent the physical, sexual, spiritual and emotional abuse and for neglect of children and young people and to report any abuse or neglect disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse or neglect linked with the church.

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 given appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of children and young people.

RESPECTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The church has adopted a code of conduct for all who are appointed to work with children and young people to ensure that they are shown the respect they are due.

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 that promote their safety and well-being.

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 in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The minister and leaders will oversee and monitor the implementation of the policy and procedures with the help of the Designated Person for Safeguarding.

The **Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)** is Bob Baker whose role is to advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and young people and to take appropriate action if abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

The **Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding** is Mr Glyn Evans, who is to support the DPS in the implementation of this policy and act as DPS in her absence.

To ensure that these measures are implemented, a copy of this policy shall be displayed on a church noticeboard and on the website. All leaders of organizations that conduct activities shall confirm that they have read the policy annually. Each worker with children or vulnerable adults (paid or voluntary) will be required to read them and to undertake assessment with the Disclosure and Barring Service before being given charge of their class or group. Copies are to be made available on request to any church member, parent or carer of a child, young person or vulnerable adult associated with the church.

The policy and procedures shall be monitored and reviewed annually. The policy statement will be published and circulated to all church members at the church AGM together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.

Churches in the Christian Forum for Safeguarding have adopted the following definition of a vulnerable adult as:

‘one who may be at risk and in need as a result of sensory or physical disability or impairment; a learning disability; physical or mental illness (chronic or otherwise). This includes those who are affected by dementia or an addiction to alcohol or drugs, or who has a reduction in their physical, mental or emotional capacity or who has for any reason become unable to protect him/her-self from harm or exploitation.

Amesbury Baptist Church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being in the life of the church.

It is the responsibility of each member to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse or neglect that is discovered, suspected or disclosed to members or leaders. Proper care is to be exercised in the appointment, selection, resourcing and training of those who work with vulnerable adults and to apply the same procedures to all those who relate to children and young people.