

## **Leadership Safeguarding Policy Statement for the protection of children and adults**

The Pastors, Elders and Deacons (hereafter referred to as the Trustees] at Gunnersbury Baptist Church recognise the importance of its work with children and young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to the Church's care. The following statement was agreed by the Trustees in June 2019 Gunnersbury Baptist Church (hereafter the Church) is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults with care and support needs and ensuring their well-being.

Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- All children and young people have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults with care and support needs and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship/organisation unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.

### **We are committed to:**

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and adults and good practice recommendations.
- Implementing the requirements of legislation in regard to people with disabilities.
- Ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Following any FIEC guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection.
- Supporting the safeguarding co-ordinator/s in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children/ adults.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by the Church
- Supporting parents and families
- Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of children and young people

- Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work.
- Supporting all in the Church affected by abuse.
- Adopting and following the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by thirtyone:eight (formerly Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service).

### **We recognise:**

- Children's Social Services has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult with care and support needs.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

### **We will review this statement and our policy and procedures annually.**

If you have any concerns for a child or adult with care and support needs then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for the Church:

**HELEN VOGT** Child and Adult Safeguarding Coordinator (telephone 07923 455317)

**ANN TALBOT** Deputy Child and Adult Safeguarding Coordinator (telephone 07780 862407)

**PAULINE DUNN** Deputy Child and Adult Safeguarding Coordinator (telephone 07796 915834)

Or if for any reason one of the above is not available or appropriate to inform, then in the first instance contact '31:8', the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service on 0845 1204550 or 01322 517817 or contact The local Children's Social Services office telephone number (9am-5pm) on 020 8583 3200 or 020 8583 6600 and choose Option 1 for Early-Help Hounslow to report a concern. The out of hours emergency number is 020 8583 2222. The local Adult Social Services office telephone number (office hours) is 020 8583 3100. The out of hours emergency number is 020 8583 2222. The Police Child Protection Team telephone number is 999 in emergencies or 101 in non-emergencies.

A copy of the full policy and procedures is available from the Church office (speak to Jean Postlethwaite).

Signed by Senior Pastor Mr T Manson

Signed  .

Date 8 June 2021