

# **Policy Statement on Safeguarding of children, young people and the church**

The Mission Statement and vision of Epsom Baptist Church (referred to as “the church” herein) is “To love God, live the truth, aim for unity and reach out to the community.” In fulfilling this vision we welcome children and young people into the life of the church.

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 Acts 1989 and 2004, Safe from Harm (HM Government 1994) and Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government 2015).

As members of this church, we recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church. We commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping 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 and responding to concern**

It is the responsibility of each church member and each member of the wider church family to prevent the physical, sexual, emotional and spiritual abuse of children and young people, and to report any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church. The church will be vigilant to identify children and young people within the life of the church who are at risk of radicalisation, violent extremism, forced marriage or female genital mutilation. The church will contact the appropriate authorities where it is suspected that a child or young person is being, or at risk of being, abused even where the abuse is not linked to 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 volunteer. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of children and young people.

## **Safe behaviour: a code of behaviour for workers**

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children and young people so that all children and young people are shown the respect that is due to them.

## **Safe practice and safe premises**

The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children and young people 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 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.

## **Responsible people**

The church has appointed Ian Evans as the Safeguarding Trustee to oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees.

The church has appointed David Payne as the Designated Person for Safeguarding, and Mary Hammond as deputy, to:

- advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and young people
- take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

### **Policy Statement and procedures**

This Policy Statement was agreed at the church members' meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Copies of the Policy Statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboard within the main building church building and on the notice board in the church hall.

The Policy Statement is supported by procedures.

Each worker with children and young people whether paid or voluntary will be given a full copy of the Policy Statement and procedures and will be required to follow them.

A full copy of the Policy Statement and procedures will be made available on request to any member of the church, the parents or carers of any child or young person from the church or any other person associated with the church.

The Policy Statement and procedures will be monitored and reviewed at least annually.

The Policy Statement will be affirmed annually at the Spring church meeting together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.