

LEADERSHIP SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The Leadership Team of Sheddingdean Baptist Church, hereafter referred to as The Leadership, recognizes the importance of its ministry / work with children and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to its care.

The following statement was agreed by the Leadership on 9th May 2018 and by the Annual General Meeting on 15th May 2018.

Sheddingdean Baptist Church and its place of worship and other meeting points is committed to the safeguarding of children and at risk adults and ensuring their wellbeing.

Specifically:

- *We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children (those under eighteen years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- *We believe that 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 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 at risk adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- *We recognise the personal dignity and rights of at risk adults and will ensure all our policies reflect this.
- *We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship and other meetings unless they pose a threat 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 at risk adults.

We are committed to:

- *Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and at risk adults and good practice recommendations.
- *Respecting the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child.
- *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 denominational or organisational guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection.
- *Supporting the safeguarding co-ordinator and deputy co-ordinator in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and at risk adults.

*Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by Sheddingdean Baptist Church.

*Supporting parents and families.

*Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of children.

*Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work.

*Supporting all in our place of worship and other meetings affected by abuse.

*Adopting and following the "Safe and Secure" safeguarding standards developed by The Churches Child Protection Advisory Service.

We recognise:

*Children's Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child.

Adult Social Care (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations and suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a at risk adult.

*Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted immediately.

*When working outside of the UK, concerns will be reported to the appropriate agencies in the country in which we are operating and their procedures followed. In addition we will report concerns to our agencies' headquarters.

***Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**

If you have any concerns for a child or at risk adult then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for Sheddingdean Baptist Church.

Steve Somers: Child and Adult Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

Kathryn Everest: Deputy Child and Adult Safeguarding Co-ordinator

This statement will be reviewed annually

Children's Advocates

Colin Allen and Judi Southcombe

A copy of the full policy and procedures is available from The Church Secretary

Agency with safeguarding responsibility is: CCPAS

Signed on behalf of the Leaders of Sheddingdean Baptist Church

_____ Date _____
John Billingham - Church Secretary