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# Duke Street Church Safeguarding Policy

Updated November 2020

## The church's responsibility

The church recognises its responsibility for the safeguarding of all children under the age of 18 as set out in the Children's Acts 1989 & 2004, Safe from Harm (HM Govt 1994) and Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Govt 2015). We also recognise our responsibility to safeguard vulnerable adults. We commit ourselves to constantly working at being a safer church, reviewing and improving the way we do things.

As members of this Church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all children and young people associated with this church and will pray for this regularly.

In pursuit of this we commit ourselves to the following policies and to developing procedures to ensure these policies are implemented. The church members will be reminded of this safeguarding policy annually at a church members' church meeting

## Our Safeguarding Team:

- **Isabel Baird:** Designated person to take appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. 07818473128
- **Jane Dodds:** Deputy to support Isabel. Particular experience in implementing policy of safe supervision of those who may pose a risk to children. 07758 318772
- **Simon Buss:** Safeguarding trustee to oversee the policy and procedures on behalf of the trustees 07874602580



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## Safeguarding policies

### 1. Safe response to concerns and reporting of abuse.

It is the duty 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. We have policies to follow if safeguarding concerns are raised about church staff or senior volunteers (appendix 1) and on how to respond to concerns of domestic violence (appendix 2).

### 2. Safe recruitment, support & supervision of workers.

The church will take proper care in recruiting workers with children and young people whether paid or voluntary. This will involve an application form, references, interview & DBS check. Workers will be provided with appropriate support, and training to promote safeguarding of children.

### 3. Safe behaviour.

The church will adopt codes of behaviour that ensure that all children and young people are shown the respect that is due to them.

### 4. Safe environment.

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.

### 5. Safe community.

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. It also has a policy to ensure that behaviour of any who may pose a risk to children and young people in the church community is managed appropriately (appendix 3). We are aware that adults may be vulnerable to abuse and we have a policy on safeguarding adults (appendix 4).

This policy document will be displayed in the church foyer and on the church website along with contact details of the responsible people. Copies of this policy document and the procedures to implement it are available to any church member or parent or guardian associated with the church