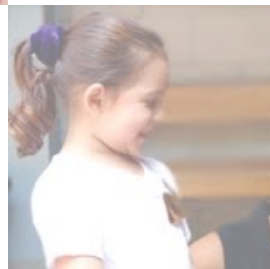
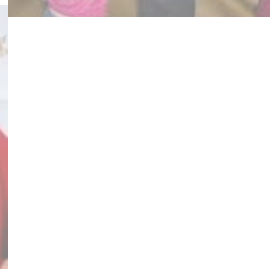
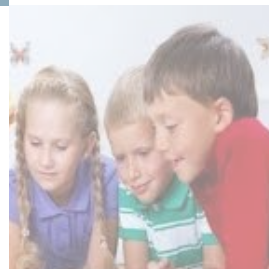
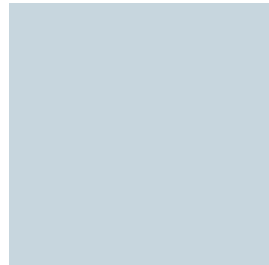


# Leominster Baptist Church

## CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY



# Policy Statement

## Safeguarding Children and Young People at Leominster Baptist Church

The vision of Leominster Baptist Church ("the church") is to help people grow a relationship with Jesus. This involves loving God, loving one another and loving our community.

In fulfilling this vision the church

- has a programme of activities with children and young people
- welcomes children and young people into the life of our community
- makes our premises available to organisations working with children and young people

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 Act 1989* and 2004, *Safe from Harm* (HM Government 1994) and *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Government 2010).

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 and responding to concern

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 well-being 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.

## 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 provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of children.

## 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 children and young people 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. A behaviour policy which outlines how behaviour will be managed will be adopted and followed.

## Responsible people

The church has appointed **Mr Jeremy Clark** 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 **Mr Dean Burgis** as the Designated Person for Safeguarding, and **Mr Will Davies** 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.
- to make referrals to the relevant safeguarding authorities where necessary.

## Other groups on church premises

Where the building is hired for outside use, the person signing the letting agreement will be given a copy of this policy. The designated lead will consider the various users of the building in making lettings.

## Policy and procedures

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboard in the church hall. Each worker with children and young people whether paid or voluntary will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and will be required to follow them.

A full copy of the policy 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.

These guidelines have been discussed and approved by the leaders of the ministry to children and young people and the Diaconate of Leominster Baptist Church. The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed at least annually. The policy statement will be read annually at the church meeting in January together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.

## Key Concepts and Definitions

1. **Vulnerable Adults:** any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of her or himself, or to protect her or himself from significant harm or exploitation.
2. **Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults** from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
3. **Adult/child protection** is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
4. **Abuse and neglect** may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

This policy was last reviewed on: **21st January 2016**