



SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR LYMM BAPTIST CHURCH

Building community – exploring faith

In fulfilling this vision/purpose the church

- has a programme of activities with children¹ and adults at risk²
- welcomes children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- makes our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk.

The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children and adults at risk regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all 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

It is the duty of each church member and each member of the wider church family to help prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect of children and adults at risk and the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk 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.

Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children and adults at risk.

Respecting children and adults at risk

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

Safe working practices

The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with children and adults at risk that promote their safety and well-being.

A safer community

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

Safeguarding Contact Points within our church

- The church has appointed **Scott McPhail** as the Safeguarding Trustee to oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees and raise the safeguarding profile within our church.
- The church has appointed **Sarah Rotchell** as the Designated Person for Safeguarding to advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Our Lead Minister and Associate Minister are also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

Policy and procedures

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard and church office, and is available on our church website
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk whether paid or voluntary will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will 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 from the church or any other person associated with the church.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- The policy statement will be read annually at the church AGM together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

¹ For the purpose of this policy child refers to anyone under the age of 18.

² There is no standard single definition for an adult at risk, so for our policy we are using the following simple definition taken from CCPAS (Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service): "Any adult aged 18 or over who due to disability, mental function, age, illness or traumatic circumstances may not be able to take care or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation."