

Policy Statement on Safeguarding

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK POLICY STATEMENT

- Woodgreen Evangelical Church is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk of harm and abuse, and to ensuring their well-being.
- We recognise the importance of the personal dignity and rights of children and adults and will ensure that all our policies and procedures will reflect this.
- We believe that every child and adult at risk should be valued and allowed to be safe and happy. We want to make sure that they know this and are empowered to tell us if they are experiencing significant harm.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect of children and young people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults at risk of harm and abuse and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe that, as appropriate, all children and adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the church.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.

We are committed to:

- Following statutory guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm or abuse and will ensure that as a church, all staff and volunteers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy.
- Implementing the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005, Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation.
- Supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
- Ensuring that we are keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Supporting all at Woodgreen Evangelical Church who are affected by abuse.

We recognise:

- That Children's Social Services has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult with care and support needs.
- That where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- That safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will review this statement and our policy annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or adult, then speak to one of the following who are designated as safeguarding leads at Woodgreen Evangelical Church.

Martyn Walley Designated Safeguarding Lead

01905 357268

07562001794

churchmanager@woodgreenchurch.co.uk

Alex Johnstone Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

01905 780482

07889 565957

ajwoodgreenchurch@gmail.com

A copy of the Woodgreen Evangelical Church Safeguarding Policy can be found on the church's website

www.woodgreenchurch.co.uk

Paper copies are available from the church office.

Signed

The image shows two handwritten signatures. The first signature is 'Richard' in blue ink, written over a light blue rectangular background. The second signature is 'Don' in blue ink, written below the first signature.

Richard Lacey (Lead Pastor)

Don Beckett (Lead Trustee for Safeguarding)

18th October 2022