

# WELLINGBOROUGH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

*A Fellowship Growing in Faith Together*

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## Safeguarding Policy

### POLICY STATEMENT

Wellingborough United Reformed Church acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard the welfare of all young people (defined as those under 18) and vulnerable adults involved with the Church. All young people and vulnerable adults have a right to protection, and their particular needs taken into account.

Wellingborough United Reformed Church will therefore endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all young people and vulnerable adults involved with the Church through the Safeguarding guidelines adopted by the Annual General Meeting of the Church. It is the responsibility of all adults within the Church to assist the Elders in this endeavour.

### POLICY AIMS

- To provide young people and vulnerable adults with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of Church and also help them to enjoy their experience whilst in the care of the Church.
- To reassure parents that their children will receive the best practicable care possible whilst participating in activities within the Church
- To provide support to members and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific safeguarding issues and to fulfil their role effectively.

### PRINCIPLES

- The welfare of young people is paramount
- All young people and vulnerable adults, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language and ethnic origins have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All adults and volunteers within the Church have a responsibility to report concerns to the Church's Safeguarding Officer.
- All adults and volunteers will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and protection of young people by the Church.
- Individuals will receive support through education and training, coordinated by the Safeguarding Officer/Elders to be aware of and understand best practice and how to manage any safeguarding issues that may come to light.
- Wellingborough United Reformed Church's policy and procedures are based upon the above principals and United Kingdom and international legislation and government guidance and take the following into consideration
  - The Children Act 1989 & 2004
  - Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013
  - The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
  - The URC safeguarding 'Good Practice' [3<sup>rd</sup> edition]
  - Any subsequent legislation relating to safeguarding would implicitly be incorporated into this document

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMUNICATION

- The Wellingborough United Reformed Church' Safeguarding Policy will be available to all members, parents, and volunteers
- The policy will be reviewed annually by the Elders and amended as appropriate. Guidance will be sought as part of the review procedure.
- The Elders have a responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented.
- The Church's Safeguarding officer has the responsibility for responding to any allegations concerns or safeguarding incidents, passing information to the appropriate authority and informing the appropriate members or volunteers where relevant.
- Parents have a responsibility to work together with the Church in implementing procedures and providing their children with the necessary information to keep the safe

## MONITORING AND REVIEW

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Elders or in response to significant new legislation.
- The policy will be monitored in partnership with the Synod.

## THE SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Our Safeguarding Officer is:-

Mrs Susan Scott: email - [susanscott469@googlemail.com](mailto:susanscott469@googlemail.com)  
Telephone – 01933 677450



## THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE

Our Children's Advocate is:-

Mrs Cheryl Bhagwandin: email - [cheryl62@fsmail.net](mailto:cheryl62@fsmail.net)  
Telephone – 01933 677305

