

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR HEADCORN BAPTIST CHURCH

Our vision

The vision statement of Headcorn Baptist Church is **to become a spiritual hub for Headcorn and the surrounding villages. Over the next 5 years we will work towards fulfilling this vision.**

In fulfilling this vision, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our church and community
- Occasionally run activities for children
- Regularly run groups for older adults such as Bible Study, Arty Crafts and Krafti Katz
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk

Our safeguarding responsibilities

Our church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

- **Prevention and reporting of abuse**

It is the duty of each church member to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

- **Safer recruitment, support and supervision of workers/volunteers**

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working/volunteering with children and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers/volunteers 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**

HBC 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.

- **Safer working practices**

HBC is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

- **A safer community**

HBC 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, young people and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

Safeguarding contact point within our church

Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS): Theresa Turner

They will 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.

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