



## **Policy Statement and Procedures for Safeguarding Children and Young People in the Church 2016**

Uckfield Baptist Church is referred to as “the Church” in this Document.  
For the purpose of this document the term “children” refers to anyone under the age of 18 years.

**The vision statement of the Church** is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

In fulfilling this vision we:

- Welcome children into the life of our community
- Have a programme of events for children
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children.

### **1. Statement of policy**

The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all 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 safekeeping 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.

### **2. Prevention and reporting of abuse.**

It is the duty of each church member to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children 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.

### **3. Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers.**

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

### **4. Respecting children.**

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

## **5. Safe working practices.**

The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and wellbeing.

### **Policy and Procedures**

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboard in The Source and in the church office.

Each worker with children will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and will be asked to sign that they are willing to follow them. A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of/or other person associated with the church.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually.

The policy statement will be read annually at a church meeting together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.

## **6. The Safeguarding Team**

Safeguarding Trustee: The Church has appointed Bryan Green to oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures.

Designated Person for Safeguarding. The Church has appointed Patricia Bowler ( 01825 760042) to advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

The Trustees (minister and deacons) are responsible for overseeing and monitoring the implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church.

## **7. Appointed Leaders**

**Chippers**      **Jo Mileman**

**Sunday Club**    **Emily Talbot, Jo Mileman**

When possible, the Safeguarding Team will work together if, and when, issues arise.

### **Helpful Numbers**

Children's Social Care Services 8.45am—5pm - 01323 747373

Police Child Protection Team – 07699 391462

South East Baptist Association: Maeve Whitchurch - 01273 441509.

Signed.....

Date.....