



CASTLEHOLD

B A P T I S T C H U R C H

(Charity number: 1133748)

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

This statement relates to **Castlehold Baptist Church**, High Street, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1BH. Registered Charity No. 1133748. (Referred to as “the Church” in this statement).

The Mission Statement of the Church is “Reaching out to people enabling them to become followers of Jesus Christ.”

In fulfilling this vision, the Church:

- Welcomes children and young people into the life of our church community.
- Has a programme of activities with children and young people endeavouring to teach them spiritually and to instruct them in practical ways to become mature members of our community.
- Makes our premises available to the wider Christian community working with children and young people.

The Church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children and 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 2015), and such other statutory legislation that shall from time to time be enacted.

As members of this church we commit ourselves to nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all children and young people 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 prevent the physical, sexual, emotional or spiritual abuse of children and young people. It is the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and young people 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.

Safe Recruitment, support and supervision of workers

The Church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of children and young people.

Respecting children and young people

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

Safe working practices

The Church is committed to providing a safe environment for the activities with children and young people and will adopt ways of working with children and young people that promote their safety and well-being.

A safe community

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

Responsible people

The Church has appointed the Trustees/Deacons of the Church,

- Who have a duty of care to the children and young people involved in the life of this Church and who have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the Policy Statement and procedures are written and implemented.
- Are responsible for any legal obligations we have as an organisation.

The Church has appointed **Trish Neilson** as the Safeguarding Trustee /Deacon to:

- Oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the Church's charity trustees.
- To ensure that the policy and procedures are reviewed at least annually and to present the report of the annual review to the trustees.
- To receive reports from the Safeguarding Officers regarding any safeguarding incidents in the life of the Church and to be responsible for informing the trustees as appropriate.

The Church has appointed **Rebecca Savage** and **David Burton** as the Safeguarding Officers to:

- Help the Church respond appropriately to any concerns raised about the safety or well being of a child or young person and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

- To inform the Safeguarding Trustee of any safeguarding incidents in the life of the Church.
- To implement policies and procedures relating to the safeguarding of children and young people in the Church as detailed above.
- To ensure delivery of appropriate safeguarding training for both staff, volunteers and for the wider Church.

Policy and procedures

A copy of this policy statement will be displayed permanently on the notice board in the foyer of the main entrance to the Church.

Each worker with children and young people whether paid or voluntary will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and will be required to 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 or young person from the Church or any other person associated with the Church.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed at least annually.

The policy statement will be read annually at the Church AGM in June together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.