

# SECTION 1 – SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR SANDBACH BAPTIST CHURCH

## Our purpose

The purpose of Sandbach Baptist Church (SBC) is

- a) The advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination
- b) To advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the UK and/or other parts of the world

In fulfilling this purpose, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community.
- Run activities for children and adults at risk.
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk.

## Our safeguarding responsibilities

SBC recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children and adults at risk.

As members of SBC 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. SBC will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with SBC.

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

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

SBC has 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 – see Section 2.3.

- **Safer working practices**

SBC 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**

SBC is committed to the prevention of bullying. SBC will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

## **The SBC Safeguarding team**

SBC has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team:

### **Sandra Murphy, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)**

She will advise SBC 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.

### **Christine Hill, Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS)**

She will assist the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) in helping SBC 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.

### **Andrea Jones, Safeguarding Trustee**

She will raise the profile of safeguarding within SBC and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church leaders.

Our minister is also an important part of the SBC Safeguarding Team. Where possible, the SBC Safeguarding Team will work together when issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

## **Putting our policy into practice**

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church notice boards at Sandbach Primary Academy and Oasis.
- Each new worker with children and/or adults at risk will be directed to the safeguarding policy and procedures by their group leader and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them (Form 1).
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with SBC.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- The policy statement will be read annually at the church AGM, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

<i>This policy was first adopted at the Quarterly Church Meeting on 16.09.2019</i>
<i>This policy will be reviewed each year. The next review will be on or before 31.12.2025</i>
<i>The latest review of the policy was confirmed by the Annual General Meeting on 25.11.2024</i>