

Policy Statement on Safeguarding

for Watchet Baptist Church (WBC)



1. As partners of this church we commit ourselves to the safeguarding of adults at risk, ensuring their well being in the life of WBC and will pray for them regularly.
2. As partners of this church we commit ourselves to nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all children and young people (under 18 years old) associated with WBC and will pray for them regularly.
3. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse of adults at risk and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
4. It is also the duty of each of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people, and to respond to concerns about their well being and report any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation linked to WBC.
5. WBC will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those who will work with children, young people and adults at risk.
6. This church is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and supervising those who volunteer, to promote the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk.
7. This church has adopted a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children and young people so that all are shown the respect that is due to them.
8. WBC is committed to providing a safe environment for our children, young people and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them to promote their safety and well being (including safety in online spaces).
9. This church is committed to the prevention of bullying of children, young people and adults at risk.
10. Each person who works with children, young people and adults at risk will agree to abide by these recommendations and guidelines established by WBC.

This Policy Statement was re-affirmed at the Church Meeting on **21st March 2023**.

This church has appointed **Karen Wright** as Safeguarding Trustee to oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's trustees and to act as DBS Administrator processing DBS checks for volunteers and staff.

This church has appointed **Andy Levett** as the (Acting) Designated Safeguarding Lead to:

- (a) Advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk.
- (b) Take appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.
- (c) Represent the concerns and views of adults of risk at our church family meetings and to outside bodies.

NB: A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any partner, parent/carer or any other person associated with WBC.