



# THE CHURCH IN GREAT NOTLEY

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## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT** **Safeguarding Children and** **Young People**

The Church in Great Notley seeks to serve the needs of young people, promoting holistic development.

In doing so, we take seriously the welfare of all young people and children who come onto our premises or who are involved in our activities.

We aim to ensure that they are welcomed into a safe, caring, Christian environment with a happy and friendly atmosphere.

We recognise that it is the responsibility of each one of our staff, paid or unpaid, to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse, or neglect of young people and children and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.

We recognise our responsibility to implement, maintain and regularly review procedures, which are designed to prevent and to be alert to such abuse.

We are committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people and to providing supervision.

We are committed to maintaining good links with the statutory care authorities.

We are committed to following the Methodist Church's policy for good practice which is contained in the publication 'Safeguarding'.

# **Safeguarding Policy and Procedures**

## **Appointment of Workers for Children**

Workers in Junior Church and other groups for children are appointed and approved by the Church Council. They should be church members and at least 16 years of age. Before the appointment such workers should:

1. Be interviewed by one of the ministerial team or a Church Councillor
2. Complete a self-declaration form.
3. Give a reference from someone who knows them well e.g. previous minister or employer.
4. Apply for a disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau with support through the process from the Church's Safeguarding Officer.
5. Consent to training for the work, if not already trained, and be willing to update their training from time to time.

## **Church Council**

All members of the Church Council are required to sign a declaration in relation to sexual offences against children and young people.

## **Safety in the Building**

There are always two adults present for Junior Church and for any work with children. The Junior Church meet in a separate room, either the Small Hall or Small Room and separate toilets are available off the Small Hall.

The crèche room, accessible from the worship space is unsupervised and parents will be made aware of their responsibility to supervise their children.

Doors within the worship area have safety restrictors fitted. Stewards will be made aware that these restrictors need to be used. The only exception is the fire door, and stewards, workers with children and Church Council members will be made familiar with the risk assessments for the fire exits and for other key areas.

## **Use of the Building by Others**

All groups working with children and young people under the age of 18 and using our premises are required to agree to uphold the principles of the Home Office Document 'Safe from Harm'. To implement this, all groups are required either to have their own safeguarding Policy or to adopt our own policy.

## **Safeguarding Officer**

A Safeguarding Officer will be appointed to share responsibility for the co-ordination and implementation of the Safeguarding Policy and to facilitate the CRB disclosures. The post-holder(s) will appointed in the same way as workers with children.

*June 2011*