# SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR SPRINGFIELD PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

## Our vision

The vision statement of Springfield Park Baptist Church is:

- ***Community with God***
- ***Community with each other***
- ***Community with community***

In fulfilling this vision, we:

- Welcome children and vulnerable adults into the life of our community
- We run activities that can include children and vulnerable adults
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children and vulnerable adults

## Our safeguarding responsibilities

The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and vulnerable adults, regardless of gender, ethnicity, age or ability.

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection, and safekeeping of all associated with the church, praying for them regularly and providing support when needed. 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 vulnerable adults, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and vulnerable adults. The Church recognises the importance of keeping children safe online and has procedures for this. (1)

  Any abuse disclosed, discovered, or suspected will be reported to our designated person for safeguarding in accordance with our procedures (2). The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church. Any suspected FGM will be reported directly to the police in accordance with the Mandatory Reporting Duty of FGM – October 2015. FGM is a criminal offense.

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

  The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and vulnerable adults, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support, and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children and vulnerable adults. All adults working with children, young people and vulnerable adults in this church must undergo an enhanced DBS check.

- **Respecting children and adults at risk**

  The church will adopt a code of behaviour as set out by the BUGB (Baptist Union of Great Britain) for all who are appointed to work with children and vulnerable adults so that all children and adults are shown the respect that is due to them.

- **Safer working practices**

  The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and vulnerable adults and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being in alignment with BUGB guidance

- **A safer community**

  The church is committed to the prevention of bullying of all individuals who are members or attend activities. This includes online bullying (3). The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children, young people, and vulnerable adults (4) in the community of the church is managed appropriately and effectively.

**Safeguarding contact points within our church**

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

**Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) – Fran Poelman**
Fran will advise the church 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.

Phone number: 07745961220
Email address: franpoelman@hotmail.com

**Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS) – Alison Hovell**
Alison will assist the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) in helping the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered, or suspected.

Phone number: 07741 737351
Email address: community@springfieldparkbaptistchurch.org.uk

**Safeguarding Trustee – Janey Argent**
The Trustee will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees.

Phone number: 07811468309
Email address: janey.argent@hotmail.co.uk

**Designated Person Responsible for DBS Check – Rachel Foyster**

Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if, and 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 noticeboard and church office. It is available on our church website.
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will 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, 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.

This policy was agreed and approved by the church leadership team in November 2023.

It will be reviewed by the SPBC Constitution committee in 2024. Any amendments will be brought before a church meeting for final approval.

Appendix

(1) The church follows the guidance for usage of social media as produced by the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The guidance document can be accessed at www.baptist.org.uk

(2) https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/509643/Model_Safeguarding_Policy.aspx

(3) The church follows the guidance for cyber bullying as produced by the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The guidance can be accessed at www.baptist.org.uk

(4) The church has adopted the Baptist Union Policy for protecting vulnerable adults https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/450987/Safe_to_Belong.aspx

(5) The Baptist Union of Great Britain also has guidance leaflets about 'Self-Harm' and 'Domestic Violence' which can be accessed at www.baptist.org.uk.