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| **Rodbourne Cheney Baptist Church**  https://img1.wsimg.com/isteam/ip/6148df9a-1da0-4d07-a697-1b97293b750e/logo/02841be2-6c42-488e-bd5b-9597f9524042.png |

Safeguarding Policy

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# Statement of intent

Rodbourne Cheney Baptist Church (referred to as the Church through the policy) regards protection of children and young people from harm as a priority to create a safe environment to grow and feel safe.

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 2010).

To fulfill this vision/purpose of the Church, which is to “Know Jesus and make Him Known”, the membership is committed to nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of all children and young people associated with the Church and will pray for them regularly. The Church will:

* + Maintain a safe and healthy environment - providing adequate control to safeguard children and young people in the programme of activities we run:
  + Welcome children and young people into the life of our community
  + Ensure that the programme of activities are children friendly and suitable for the childrens’ ages.

# Aim and Scope

The Church will provide adequate control for the safeguarding of children and young people arising from our activities. This policy applies to all members, the congregation, visitors and workmen when working within the building and grounds. We will also ensure the appropriate assessments and controls are in place at external events organized by the Church.

It is the duty of each church member and each member of the wider church family to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people and 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.

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.

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.

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

# Responsibilities

The Church Trustees and members will formally appoint people to oversee the controls of the Safeguarding Policy, to ensure their effectiveness and create and manage the procedures needed to prevent any harm coming to children or young people as duty of care. A Trustee of the Church will be appointed Safeguarding Trustee and they will lead on Safeguarding issues within the Church - ensuring that the controls and arrangements are established, resourced, operated, monitored, improved and reported.

The Church Trustee and members will appoint Designated Safeguarding Persons to be contact points for children or young people to take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. They will also be responsible for:

* + Advising the Church on any matters relating to Safeguarding.
  + Ensuring adequate reporting and investigations – including improvements based on lessons learnt.
  + Ensuring copies of the policy, procedures and notices are displayed in the Church appropriately.
  + Ensuring a copy of this policy and its associated procedures be given to all children and young people workers to read and agree to prior to them being allowed to work with children or young people.
  + Ensuring, in conjunction with the Safeguarding Trustee, that the appropriate training is undertaken by all in roles of responsibility, especially where they work with children or young people.
  + Ensuring, in conjunction with the Safeguarding Trustee, that persons working with children, young people or vulnerable adults, have had the appropriate background checks conducted.
  + Ensuring that 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.
  + Providing support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of children to those leading and working with children or young people.

All members, including regular non-member attendees that lead activities, must ensure that protection controls are achieved within their areas of responsibility through ensuring that:

* + They lead by example on good practice.
  + They create a safe and protected environment for children and young people.
  + They promote the safety and well-being of children and young people.
  + That they help ensure there are Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPS) in place for children and young people under their control.
  + They encourage respect of children and young people and between children and young people.

All members, including regular non-member attendees, have a responsibility to take reasonable care to protect children, young people or vulnerable adults and to co-operate fully with Trustees to achieve a safe environment. Members, visitors and contracted persons must:

* + Set a personal example, especially to junior members in the Church or visitors.
  + Report any actual or potential safeguarding problems to the Designated Safeguarding Persons or the Safeguarding Trustee.
  + Ensure that children must not be given access to or left alone in Church rooms without supervision, especially:
    - Kitchens
    - Cupboards, especially cleaning cupboard
    - Jeremiah Store room.
  + Ensure that parents or guardians are responsible for safety of their children, when not in an activity arranged by the Church. It is recommended that parents or guardians should keep their children with them where they can be supervised, especially the very young.

# Reporting

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. We will report to the authorities any activity that is deemed harmful to children and young people in accordance with Safeguarding principles.

# Monitoring and Review

The Safeguarding Trustee will monitor the effectiveness of this policy and review it at least annually or as legal/business reasons dictate. The Church membership at the Annual General Meeting will ratify the policy, especially if there are any changes.

At the Annual General Meeting the Safeguarding Trustee and the Designated Persons will report on Safeguarding issues, raising any major incidents or concerns and recommendations.