



Safeguarding Policy

**Safeguarding children, young people and
adults at risk**

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1. Purpose

Our aim is to ensure that all of our ministry is provided in a manner that is consistent with the Bible's teaching and our love of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is, therefore, important that we do all we can to protect every member of our church community at Christ Church Dunstable (CCD) from harm, including harassment, abuse and exploitation. This particularly applies to children, young people and adults at risk. Any harm that is identified should be handled effectively, promptly and proportionately.

We also wish to ensure that all church staff, Pastors, Elders and all who serve are clear about their responsibilities and duties and have support to carry out their ministry competently and safely.

2. Scope

This policy applies to everyone who works on behalf of the church with children, young people and adults at risk.

It applies to Pastors, Elders, staff, church members and anyone else who acts in any capacity on behalf of CCD.

The policy also outlines the general responsibilities of every member of CCD to raise safeguarding concerns about individuals and/or practices within the church.

In this policy, "Pastors", refers to the Lead Pastor and Associate Pastor, who together with the Elders constitute our Managing Trustees.

"Staff" refers to all our paid staff, including our Pastors, Community Engagement Pastor, and Assistant Pastors.

3. Context

Our name expresses who we are and what we do:



Christ

We worship and serve the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible.

Church

We are a community of people of all ages and backgrounds united in our love for the Lord Jesus. We meet together regularly as a whole church family on Sundays and in small groups during the week.

Dunstable

We are committed to reach out to and serve our local community of Dunstable, Luton, Houghton Regis and villages as we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We staff and run The Way Community Centre and Coffee Shop throughout the week as an important part of this mission.

Beyond our town we are committed to World Mission and have a number of Global Mission Partners whom we support with prayer and finance. We also play an active part in the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches ([FIEC](#)).

4. Our values and beliefs

We believe that:

4.1 God created human beings in his own image and so we consider every person as of great value. We seek to promote the welfare of all those in our midst.

4.2 In line with God's care for the weak and oppressed we want to protect and care for those who are vulnerable, and to oppose exploitation.

4.3 We honour those whom God has placed in authority so seek to obey the law of the land, and to meet best practice standards in the way we carry out safeguarding.

4.4 We also seek to deal effectively and transparently with any abuse or exploitation that comes to light.

4.5 Everyone who engages with our church community, including our Pastors, Elders, staff, church members and all other beneficiaries have the right to be protected from any form of bullying, harassment, exploitation, or abuse. We will seek to ensure that we provide a caring and nurturing environment that is open and transparent and takes seriously any concerns that are raised.

5. Our responsibilities and commitment

5.1 Our responsibilities

5.1.1 To ensure that the protection of all members of CCD's church community, but particularly children, young people and adults at risk of abuse, is of paramount importance to us.

5.1.2 To work in partnership with children, young people, their parents/carers, adults at risk of abuse, local and national partner agencies and churches to promote the welfare of each member of our Church community, and particularly the vulnerable.

5.1.3 To work to develop and maintain an environment that is protective, caring and nurturing for all who engage with our Church community, in accordance with our [doctrines and beliefs](#) as outlined on our website and in our church rules for church members. Please also see the CCD Constitution and Handbook.

5.2 How we will seek to fulfil these responsibilities

5.2.1 We will actively seek to create and maintain a culture that is consistent with best practice in Safeguarding and with our biblical principles.

5.2.2 We will ensure that we have relevant policies, procedures, training and systems including, recording and storing information accurately, that support a robust culture of safeguarding and that these are regularly reviewed for effectiveness.

6. Safeguarding team

6.1 All in the church community have responsibility for safeguarding.

Pastors and Elders take their responsibility seriously and have allocated particular responsibilities for safeguarding to the DSL and DDSL.

Safeguarding Elder: Graham Newton.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Evelyn Sharpe.

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL): Phil Stock.

DBS checks are carried out at our request by Thirtyone: Eight and for all members working with children and adults at risk.

7. Reporting and responding appropriately

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment - a person may abuse by inflicting harm or failing to prevent harm. Abuse and neglect can happen over a period of time but can also be a one-off event. Abuse and neglect can have major long-term impacts on health, development and well-being. For much information about different types of abuse and how to spot them see [Recognising signs of abuse and neglect document](#).

If you have a safeguarding concern or suspicion of abuse please report the concern to Evelyn Sharpe, DSL on **07768661352** or Phil Stock, DDSL on **07786374968**. See [CCD Safeguarding poster](#). If someone is in immediate danger contact the Police on 999. If you are unable to reach the DSL or DDSL consider contacting Social Services ([see Appendix B](#)).

8. Basis of policy and legal framework

This policy reflects what CCD holds to as their biblical basis for belief and conduct and should be read in conjunction with the statement of faith.

8.1 Our statement of faith

The doctrinal basis of faith of CCD is that of the FIEC Doctrinal Basis (1991). This is set out in a booklet entitled Church Rules which also describes church practice. Further information can be found in the Church Handbook.

8.2 Basis for legal framework ([see Appendix C](#))

Document Control

Policy version: v3 November 2023.

Written by: Phil Stock, DDSL.

Approved by the Pastors and Elders: November 2023.

Next review date: November 2024.

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Appendices

Appendix A - Safeguarding responsibilities

Governance of safeguarding

The Pastors and Elders will ensure that they provide leadership of safeguarding across the church by:

- Ensuring that legally compliant policies, procedures, codes of conduct and systems are implemented
- Ensuring that a suitably skilled and knowledgeable Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and at least one deputy are appointed, supported, and resourced.
- Providing oversight of those responsible for various aspects of safeguarding
- Reviewing the safeguarding arrangements to ensure that an effective and proportionate approach is thoroughly implemented and consistently enacted across the church
- Ensuring that the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and deputy provide annual updates to the Trustees
- Ensuring that Charity commission requirements, including the responsibility to report any serious incidents are fully met.

Leadership and management of safeguarding

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and their Deputy, will ensure that:

- The Safeguarding Policy is regularly reviewed, updated and any changes signed off by the Pastors and Elders.
- Safeguarding concerns are managed in a timely and proportionate manner, including making referrals to statutory agencies as required, working with partner agencies such as the Local Authority and the Police and the maintenance of accurate records and systems.
- Leading the implementation of the safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Ensuring that regular reports are provided to the Pastors and Elders and that any urgent issues are communicated to the chair of Trustees in a timely manner.
- Raising awareness of safeguarding and promoting its importance across the church.

Individual responsibilities

Everyone working on behalf of CCD is required to:

- Act in accordance with the policies, procedures and codes of conduct provided.
- Adhere to local legislation, guidance, and procedures.
- Ensure that they remain vigilant to the risks of harm to all members of our church community.

Appendix B - Key Safeguarding contacts

<p>church: Christ Church Dunstable</p> <p>Phone: 01582 661621</p> <p>E-mail: safeguarding@christchurchdunstable.org.uk</p> <p>Leadership</p> <p>Designated Safeguarding Lead Evelyn Sharpe - 07768661352</p> <p>Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Phil Stock - 07786374968</p> <p>Our policies and other useful information about safeguarding can be found at:</p> <p>https://christchurchdunstable.org.uk/what-we-do/safeguarding/</p> <p>The roles and responsibilities of those involved in safeguarding can be found in appendix A</p>	<p>Statutory services Local Safeguarding Adult Board for Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire</p> <p>Safeguarding Adults Phone: 0300 300 8122 (Monday to Friday, 8:45am to 5:20pm) 0300 300 8123 (outside of these hours)</p> <p>Email: adult.protection@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk <i>(Please remember that email is NOT secure so confidential or sensitive data should not be included).</i> Link to make a referral.</p> <p>Safeguarding Children</p> <p>Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (CBSCB) During office hours (8:45am to 5:20 pm Monday to Thursday, 8:45am to 4:20pm Friday) contact the Central Bedfordshire Access and Referral Hub on the details below: Tel: 0300 300 8585.</p> <p>Email: cs.accessandreferral@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>To submit a Children's Services referral please click here.</p> <p>Outside office hours contact the Central Bedfordshire Children's Services Team on 0300 300 8123.</p> <p>Bedfordshire Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit 01234 846960</p> <p>Allegations against staff or volunteers should be reported to: safeguarding@christchurchdunstable.org.uk <i>(Please remember that email is NOT secure so confidential or sensitive data should not be included).</i></p>
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Appendix C - Basis of the policies and procedures and the legal framework

- Our statement of faith
 - This policy reflects the church’s fundamental biblical beliefs and should be read in conjunction with the [church’s statement of faith](#)

Safeguarding Children

- National legislation and guidance (Safeguarding Children)
 - Children Acts (1989 & 2004)
 - Children and Families Act 2014
 - Children and Social Work Act 2017
 - Working together to safeguard children (2018)
 - What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused: advice for practitioners (Department for Education, 2015)
 - Protection of Children Act 1999
 - Safeguarding vulnerable groups act 2006
 - Protection of freedoms Act 2012
 - Disqualification under the childcare act 2006 (2018 amended)
 - Prevent duty guidance 2016
 - Sexual offences Act 2003
 - The Safe Network Standards (available from the NSPCC website)
 - The policy also takes account of the principles outlined in:
 - Keeping children safe during community activities, after school clubs and tuition
 - Keeping children safe in education 2021
 - FGM duty guidance
 - Prevent duty guidance

- Local guidance and procedures
 - [Contact details](#) for Central Beds Children’s Services

Safeguarding Adults

- National legislation and guidance (Safeguarding adults)
 - The Care Act 2014
 - Human Rights Acts 1998
 - Care Standards Act 2000
 - Mental Capacity Act 2005
 - Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards 2007
 - Sexual Offences Act 2003
 - Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 of Fraud Act 2006
 - Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998
 - Health and Social Care Act 2008
 - Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
 - Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
 - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
 - LSAB Multiagency Policy and Procedures

- Local guidance and procedures
 - [Contact details](#) for Central Beds Adults Services