

## **POLICY STATEMENT on Safeguarding Children in the Church**

Name of church: Christ Church, Nailsworth (hereinafter referred to as 'the church' in the Policy Statement)

The Mission Statement of the church is: We worship God in our response to His love revealed in Jesus Christ. We seek to increase awareness of God's presence and help people grow and learn as Christians through fellowship and prayer and by fostering a sense of community. Our welcome is unconditional, and we invite those who join with us to share and explore what it means to live as a Christian in today's society.

In mission and service we seek to tell the good news of Jesus Christ and show caring love through our giving, practical action and concern for justice.

In our life and worship we seek to express the main features of our parent denominations and to foster good working relationships with the other local churches – St. George's (Parish) Church, the Religious Society of Friends and the Roman Catholic Church at Woodchester – through 'Churches Together in Nailsworth'.

In fulfilling this vision the church welcomes children (defined as those under the age of 18) into the life of our community

The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children (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).

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all children associated with the church and will pray for them regularly.

In pursuit of this we commit ourselves to the following policies and to the development of procedures to ensure their implementation.

### **Prevention and reporting of abuse**

It is the duty of each church member and each member of the wider church family to prevent the abuse of children and the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children 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.

### **Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers**

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of children.

### **Respecting children**

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children so that all children are shown the respect that is due to them.

### **Safe working practices**

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

### **A safe community**

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying of children. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any who may pose a risk to children in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

### **Safeguarding Trustee / Designated Person**

The church has appointed the Administrative Secretary, Malcolm Brown, as the Safeguarding Trustee/Designated Person to:

- Oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees.
- Advise the church on any matters related to safeguarding.
- Take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

### **Policy and procedures**

- A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently and prominently within the church
- The minister and every church volunteer will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and will be required to follow them.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to anyone who requests it.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually.
- The policy statement will be read annually at the Annual General Meeting of the church together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.