



## Safeguarding Policy Statement

The following policy has been agreed by the leadership of Castle Hill United Reformed Church:

This Church is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and to ensuring their well-being.

We believe that all children and vulnerable adults should know that they are valued within the Church and safely enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of our Church.

We respect the personal dignity and rights of children and vulnerable adults and will ensure that our policies and procedures reflect this.

We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse and neglect of children under 18 years of age.

We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, financial or discriminatory abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults.

We recognise that domestic abuse affects both adults and children and believe that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and inconsistent with a Christian way of living.

We will report any abuse of children or vulnerable adults that we discover or suspect.

Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed, the police will be contacted as a matter of urgency.

We recognise that Children's Services has responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child and that Adult Services do so for vulnerable adults.

We acknowledge that Local Authority Designated Officers have responsibility for dealing with all allegations and concerns about people working with children, whether paid or voluntary workers, lay or ordained.

We recognise that Safeguarding is a whole church responsibility.

We are committed to: -

The establishment of a loving environment which is safe and caring and where there is an informed vigilance about the dangers of abuse.

Following the relevant legislation, statutory, denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Ensuring that we keep up to date with national and local developments in relation to safeguarding.

Building constructive links with the relevant Voluntary and Statutory Authorities.

Taking all reasonable steps to ensure that as a Church, everyone works within the agreed procedures of this policy.

Supporting the Safeguarding Officer and Deputy in their work and in any action, they may need to take in order to protect children and vulnerable adults.

Following safer recruitment principles in the appointment and selection of all those who work with children and vulnerable adults, be they volunteer or paid staff, lay or ordained.

Supporting, supervising, resourcing and training all those who undertake work with children or vulnerable adults.

Ensuring that the children and vulnerable adults we have contact with know that they are valued and feel empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.

Reporting any abuse of children or vulnerable adults that we discover or suspect.

Supporting all those in our Church who are affected by abuse.

Supporting and supervising those who pose a risk to children or vulnerable adults, implementing contracts of behaviour, whilst bearing in mind the overarching principle that the welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount.

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Name: (on behalf of the Church leadership)

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Signed

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Date

As agreed at Church Meeting 28 January 2016 with minor update (%) in February 2018

**(%) Note – Supporting documentation for this Policy Statement can be found in the URC Good Practice 4 Handbook ‘Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk’ a copy of which is held in the Vestry.**