

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR FRAMLINGHAM COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Our vision

The vision statement of Framlingham Community Baptist Church is:

As part of the global “Bride of Christ” we are a worshipping community, expressing our awe of, love for and gratitude to God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit— whose love for us inspires our love for and devotion to Him.

As part of the global “Household or Family of God” we appreciate our adoption into God’s family and acknowledge that we belong to one another as brothers and sisters. We are encouraged, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to increasingly display the “family likeness” of Godly attitudes and behaviour, as we live a life of love.

As part of the global “Body of Christ” we are a community through which Christ continues His work on earth. As we continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit and make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in love, Jesus brings us to maturity in our knowledge of Him and His love for us, and is able to express himself through us.

As a “Building” in which God chooses to dwell, we are a community among which seekers may expect to find God, where the Gospel is proclaimed and demonstrated and from which the light and love of God shine out.

In fulfilling this vision, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Run activities for children and teenagers
- Aspire to be a welcoming, inclusive and non-judgemental community in which we introduce people to Jesus and encourage them to become his disciples, in order that they may transfer their allegiance back to their Creator, through whose love and power their lives can be transformed.
- Cultivate relationships with our brothers and sisters that are characterised by humility, honesty, forbearance and forgiveness—in short by love, which puts the needs of others above our own needs. This is demonstrated as we listen to and consult with one another, pray for one another, forgive one another, teach and encourage one another and serve one another, sharing our time and possessions to help one another in times of need. In the same way we will seek to support financially, practically and in prayer, the work of other churches in our communities and across the world.

Our safeguarding responsibilities

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

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly. 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 adults at risk, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

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

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

- **Respecting children and adults at risk**

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children and adults at risk 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 adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

- **A safer community**

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children, young people and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

Safeguarding contact points within our church

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

Shiona Lomas, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)

She 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 01449 612252 Email address shionaoglesby@gmail.com

Peter Marett, Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS)

He will assist the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) in helping 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 01728 748245 Email address peter.marett@hotmail.co.uk

Peter Marett, Safeguarding Trustee

He 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 01728 748245 Email address peter.marett@hotmail.co.uk

Our other church leaders are also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. 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.

Further definitions of these roles can be found in the BUGB publications 'Safe to Grow' (2011) & 'Safe to Belong' (2015).

Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard and 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.