

Primley United Reformed Church Safeguarding Policy Statement



The following statement was reviewed in October 2015.

The United Reformed Church accepts the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that these are inherent to all human beings, irrespective of their nationality, place of residence, gender, national or ethnic origin, race, religion, language or any other status.

Therefore this church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of children and adults at risk and to ensure their well-being.

- We believe that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and inconsistent with a Christian way of living
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse, neglect and exploitation of children under 18 years of age
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, financial, discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults at risk.
- We will report any abuse of children or adults at risk who we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of children and adults at risk and reflect this.
- We believe that all children and adults at risk should safely enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of our place of worship.
- We undertake to exercise proper care, following safer recruitment principles, in the appointment and selection of all those with any responsibility within the church, be they volunteer or paid staff, lay or ordained.

- We believe that everyone should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that the children and adults that we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.

The Universal Declaration of Human rights (1948), the European Convention on Human rights, the Human Rights act 1998 and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008) all state that adults should be free from abuse.

We are committed to:

- The establishment of a nurturing environment which is safe and caring, and where there is an informed vigilance about the dangers of abuse.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children and adults at risk
- Implementing the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation.
- Building constructive links with Voluntary and Statutory Agencies
- Following statutory, denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk, ensuring that as a place of worship, all will work within the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policies, ensuring good practice.
- Arranging the regular undertaking of Safeguarding training for all those who work with children and adults.
- Ensuring that we are keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Supporting all in our place of worship affected by abuse.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by the recommendations and guidelines established by this place of worship and challenging any abuse of power, especially where that person is in a position of trust.

- Supporting the Safeguarding Co-ordinator in his/her work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and adults at risk.
- Working in co-operation with the Police, Adult and Children's Services, recognising they have a responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about children or adults at risk.
- Supporting and supervising those who pose a risk to children or adults at risk, implementing contracts of behaviour, whilst bearing in mind the overarching principle that the welfare of the child is paramount.
- Reporting to the appropriate Councils of the Church.

We agree that:-

- If an assessment is made and someone poses an unmanageable risk to those who are vulnerable and at risk and could no longer safely attend our place of worship, we will ensure that they continue to be offered pastoral care and will also be signposted to appropriate agencies that could support them
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been or may be about to be committed, then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Local Authority Designated Officers have responsibility to deal with all allegations and concerns about any people working with children and adults at risk, whether they are interacting with them as paid, volunteer, lay or ordained workers.
- Safeguarding is a whole church responsibility.

Reviewed – October 2015
