

Holborn Church's Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

At Holborn Church, we are committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all individuals, especially children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This safeguarding policy outlines our commitment to protecting individuals from harm and ensuring their well-being within our church community.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Promote the safety and welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.
- Provide clear procedures for identifying and reporting safeguarding concerns.
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in safeguarding.
- Comply with legal and regulatory safeguarding requirements.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all church leaders, volunteers, and members of the congregation involved in church activities. It covers all church-related events, including services, Sunday School and pastoral care.

4. Key Principles

- **Zero Tolerance:** Abuse in any form will not be tolerated.
- **Duty of Care:** The church has a moral and legal duty to safeguard all individuals.
- **Transparency:** Procedures for safeguarding must be clear and accessible.
- **Confidentiality:** Information will be handled with sensitivity and only shared when necessary.
- **Accountability:** All church leaders and volunteers are responsible for upholding safeguarding standards.

5. Definitions

- **Children and Young People:** Individuals under 18 years of age.
- **Vulnerable Adults:** Adults who may be at risk due to age, disability, mental health, or other factors.
- **Abuse:** Includes physical, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse, as well as neglect.

6. Safeguarding Procedures

a) Recruitment and Training

- All staff and volunteers must undergo background checks (DBS checks in the UK).
- Safeguarding training will be provided regularly to ensure awareness of best practices.

b) Reporting Concerns

- Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**.
- Reports can be made verbally but must be documented in writing as soon as possible.
- In cases of immediate danger, emergency services should be contacted.

c) Responding to Allegations

- Allegations will be taken seriously and investigated following appropriate procedures.
- If necessary, external agencies (e.g., social services, police) will be involved.
- Support will be provided to those affected.

7. Safe Practices

- Maintain appropriate adult-to-child ratios in activities.
- Avoid one-on-one situations where possible; meetings should be in open or public spaces.
- Respect personal boundaries and ensure consent in interactions.

8. Confidentiality and Record-Keeping

- All records related to safeguarding concerns will be securely stored.
- Information will only be shared with those who need to know in order to protect individuals at risk.

9. Review and Monitoring

- This policy will be reviewed annually by church leadership.
- Feedback will be sought from leaders, volunteers, and congregation members to improve safeguarding practices.

10. Contact Information

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Anita French, anitafrench@live.com
- **Deputy Safeguarding Lead:** Christine Carter, cm.carter@btopenworld.com
- **Local Authority Safeguarding Contact:** LADO@leeds.gov.uk, 0113 3789687
- **Emergency Services:** 999 or 112

This policy is approved and endorsed by the leadership of Holborn Church on **21/2 2025**.