

Catshill Methodist Church

Statement of safeguarding principles

Every person has a value and dignity, which comes directly from the creation of humans in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- safeguarding and protecting all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- establishing safe, caring communities, which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every safeguarding concern, which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed, working in partnership with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

Working with the District Safeguarding Officer, we will support risk assessment of those who present a safeguarding risk within a church environment. We will ensure appropriate pastoral care is offered and measures are taken to address identified risks including referral to statutory agencies, suspension and the use of safeguarding contracts. We will recognise and apply the restrictions to appointment laid down in Standing Order 010 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

In all these principles, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

If you have any concerns for or about a child, young person or vulnerable adult or in relation to any child, young person or adult protection matter, then please speak to the minister or to the relevant safeguarding officer.

A copy of the full policy can be obtained from the minister or the safeguarding officer.

Minister: Rev Latika Singh Tel No: 01527 576059

Vulnerable Adults and Children & Young People's Safeguarding Officers:

Jackie Hooper email: jackieahooper@hotmail.com and

Gillian Leech email: geleach2002@yahoo.co.uk

Agreed at Catshill Church Council Meeting December 10th 2020, updated at the Church Council Meeting February 23rd 2021 and names changed at Church Council Meeting November 16th 2023