

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY DOCUMENT

Wendover Free Church policy statement on the care and protection of children and young people within the life of the church.

This statement is to be read at the Annual General Church Meeting, where its implementation can be monitored.

As members of this church, we take responsibility for children and young people within the church by doing the following:

1. We commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all people, especially children and young people.
2. We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church and we will pray for them regularly.
3. We are committed to vetting, supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people. The Church will appoint a “designated person for safeguarding” to co-ordinate the implementation of this policy, and to be a reference person for other workers. The co-ordinator will have direct access to the Minister, Church Secretary and Council at all times. Where the designated person is not a serving member of the church council, a council member will be nominated to have responsibility in this area.
4. The church is committed to following the Good practice Guidelines of Wendover Free Church (based on the Home Office Code of practice “Safe from Harm” and those published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in the “Safe to Grow” document).
5. Each worker with children and young people must know the Church’s Good practice guidelines and undertake to observe them. Each worker will be given a copy of the guidelines.
6. We recognise our responsibility to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people. We will bring to the attention of the designated person for safeguarding, a member of the church council, the Minister, or the Baptist Union Safeguarding Officer, any abuse discovered or suspected, whether directly associated with the church or not. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.
7. Children and young people are an important part of our church today. We recognise that they have much to give as well as much to receive and we will listen to them. As we nurture them in worship, learning and in community life, we will respect their wishes and feelings.
8. A copy of all of the church’s documentation regarding the safeguarding of children is freely available on request.

(Note – Updated Good Practice Safeguarding guidelines were approved by the church meeting on 12th February 2012. They are available on request from the church secretary.)