

THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS POLICY STATEMENT

The Bridge Church Cardiff works with children and families as part of its activities. These include teaching and mentoring children, young people and adults in need of protection during Sunday Services and mid-week meetings, other occasional sessions throughout the year and overnight residential activities.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who receive Bridge Church Cardiff's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services and adults in need of protection
- to provide parents, guardians, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of Bridge Church Cardiff including elders, the board of trustees, paid staff, and volunteers.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England & Wales. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from the Lead Safeguarding Officer.

WE WILL SEEK TO KEEP CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS IN NEED OF PROTECTION SAFE BY:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated safeguarding lead, a deputy safeguarding lead and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding
- developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, adults in need of protection, parents, families and carers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, adults in need of protection, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, adults in need of protection, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- recording and storing information professionally and securely

WE BELIEVE THAT:

- children, young people and adults in need of protection should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and adults in need of protection, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

WE RECOGNISE THAT:

- the welfare of the child and adult in need of protection is paramount
- all children or adults in need of protection, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children or adults in need of protection are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, adults in need of protection, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:

- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child, young person or adult in need of protection wellbeing
- Dealing with allegations of abuse against a child, young person or adult in need of protection
- Role of the designated safeguarding officer
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Safer recruitment procedures
- Adult to child supervision ratios
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Online safety policy and procedures for responding to concerns about online abuse
- Photography and image sharing guidance
- Child protection records retention and storage procedures
- Whistleblowing procedures

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Signed:

Date: