

Gilgal Baptist Church Porthcawl

Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children and Young People

March 2018

In the following statement, Gilgal Baptist Church is referred to simply as “the church”.

The vision statement of the church is, “To Know Jesus Better and to Make Him Better Known”, to encourage people to become more Christ-like through discipleship and we are committed to meeting the needs of those inside and outside our walls through ministry. We value fellowship and will come before the Lord in obedience to worship Him.

In fulfilling this purpose the church:

- has a programme of activities with children and young people
- welcomes children and young people into the life of our community
- makes our premises available to organisations working with children and young people.

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all children and young people associated with the church and will pray for them regularly. In pursuit of this we commit ourselves to the following policies and to the development of procedures to ensure their implementation.

1. Prevention and reporting of abuse

It is the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and to report any child abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people, and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.

The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children and young people under the age of 18 (regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability) as set out in The Children Act 1989 and 2004, Safe from Harm (HM Government 1994) and Working Together under the Children Act (Welsh Assembly Government 2006).

2. Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or volunteer. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children.

3. Respecting children and young people

The church will adopt procedures * for all who are appointed to work with children and young people so that all children and young people are shown the respect that is due to them.

* http://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/220754/Safeguarding_Policies.aspx

4. Safe working practices

Each worker with children and young people must know the procedures, and undertake to observe them. Please see Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) website (<http://www.baptist.org.uk>).

5. A safe community

The church is also committed to the prevention of bullying of children and young people. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any who may pose a risk to children and young people in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

Responsible people

As part of our commitment to children and young people, the church has appointed **Steve Lock** to be their Advocate. This role will be regularly explained to children, and the Advocate's contact details will be publicly displayed. Steve Lock's phone number is 07769 043616 and his email address is steve@gilgalbaptistchurch.co.uk.

The church has appointed **Liz Rees** as the Safeguarding Trustee to oversee and monitor implementation of the policy on behalf of the church's charity trustees. Liz Rees' phone number is 01656 451208 and her email address is lizreesgilgal@hotmail.co.uk

The church has appointed **Linda Harber** as the Designated Person for Safeguarding to investigate on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and young people and to take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. Linda Harber's phone number is 01656 786298 and her email address is lharber94@gmail.com.

Pastoral care

The Church will ensure that in cases where abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected, appropriate pastoral care is provided (either from within the Church or externally) for both alleged victim(s) and/ or alleged abuser(s).

Availability of policy and procedures

The Gilgal Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children and Young People – March 2018 will be made available to Church members prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Church. A copy of the Safeguarding Children Policy and a copy of the Procedures booklet will be displayed prominently in the Church, church vestry and at Gilgal Woodland Avenue and will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with, the church, their parent or their carer.

Signed: Martin Gillard (Church Minister) Date 20 March 2018

Next review date will be at the Church Annual General Meeting 2019

Registered Charity No: 1134864