

Child Protection Policy

Zion Baptist Church Tenterden, Safeguarding, Child and Vulnerable People Protection

As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children, young people and vulnerable people.

It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of vulnerable people, children and young people, and to report any abuse discovered or suspected. The details of any event described shall be immediately reported and investigated by the leader of the group to which a suspected victim is attached. Details of witness(es) must be secured and reported. Leaders are to take whatever action is deemed necessary, separating parties involved and parent/guardian is to be appraised. Moderate correction of a child could be an assault: so be aware! Much must be left to the discretion of leaders within terms of the guidelines and a report (both verbal and written) made for the information of the Leadership Team. If there is no obvious "leader" of a group then the matter must be fully reported to the Leadership Team.

We recognise that our work with children, young people and the vulnerable is the responsibility of the whole church.

We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and training and appointment of those who work with children, young people and the vulnerable, whether paid or volunteer.

In England, the law states that people who work with children have to keep them safe. This safeguarding legislation is set out in The Children Act (1989) and (2004). It also features in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (to which the UK is a signatory) and sets out the rights of children to be free from abuse. The Government also provides guidance in their document "Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013)". In accordance with this all staff are subject to a check with the Data and Barring Service (formerly CRB Checked)

Each worker with children and young people must know the recommendations, and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the church's agreed procedures and Good Practice guidelines.

The Child Support Liason Officer is **Paula Duncan**