HOPE CHURCH SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Adopted agreed February 2025

Hope Church, Swift Road, Dawlish, EX7 0FS
Registered Charity No. 1178345

INTRODUCTION

Please email hello@hopedawlish.org if you would like to see a copy of the Hope Church Safeguarding Policy and Procedures which includes: The Safeguarding Policy Statement, Safeguarding Procedures, Best Practice Guidelines and Useful Contacts.

At Hope Church we will have a safeguarding policy and procedures in place
This will guide us in making sure that we work in an Church whereby safeguarding underpins everything that we do. This will guide us with safer recruitment of all volunteers and staff and will guide leaders and helpers in all the activities and events that we hold.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

For the purpose of this guide, the term 'child' refers to anyone under the age of 18 years.

There is no standard single definition for an adult at risk, so for our policy we are using the following simple definition taken from Thirtyone:eight:

'Any adult aged 18 or over who due to disability, mental function, age, illness or traumatic circumstances may not be able to take care or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation'.

SECTION 1 – SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

Safeguarding Policy Statement for HOPE CHURCH DAWLISH

The following statement was agreed by the Hope Church leadership on: 13th February 2025

- This place of worship is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults with care and support needs and ensuring their well-being.
  We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent harm or Abuse to children and adults with care and support needs in all their recognised forms.

- We recognise that the personal dignity and rights of adults and children and will ensure all our policies and procedures will reflect this.

- We believe all people should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship/organisation.

- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.

- We believe every child and adult should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that all those we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are experiencing significant harm.

We are committed to:

- Following statutory denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults and will ensure that as a place of worship/organisation all workers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy.

- Implementing the requirements of all relevant legislation including, but not limited to; Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005, Equality Act 2010 and referring concerns about adults with care and support needs to the local authority under the Care Act 2014. *(Please amend this list for appropriate legislation in N. Ireland and Scotland)*

- Supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.

- Ensuring that we are keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.

- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this place of worship/organisation.

- Supporting all in the place of worship/organisation affected by abuse.

We recognise:

- Children's Social Services has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult with care and support needs.

- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will review this statement and our policy annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or adult, then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for this place of worship/organisation.

_____Jane Coombes_____ Safeguarding Co-Ordinator

_____James Levasier_____ Deputy Safeguarding Co-Ordinator

Safeguarding contact points within our church

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team:

Janes Coombes Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)
They will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Email address safeguarding@hopedawlish.org

James Levasier Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS)
They will assist the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) in helping the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Email address james@hopedawlish.org

Robert Baker Safeguarding Trustee
They will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees.

Email address trustee@hopedawlish.org

Our church Operations Manager is also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

(Further definitions of these roles can be found in Appendix 4 – Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities)

Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard and church office and is available on our church website.
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- The policy statement will be read annually at the church members' meeting, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.