# QUINTON Methodist Church

## Statement of Safeguarding Principles

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Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of humans in God's own image. This implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to value the potential in everyone. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. We all have duty therefore to protect them from harm.

**Principles**

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train (see appendix 4.) all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with[1] the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every concern raised which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been victim of abuse, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

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**MODEL CHURCH POLICY**

# Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for QUINTON Methodist Church

Quinton Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of children or adults when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount.

The Church recognises that it has a particular care for all who are vulnerable whether by disabilities or by reduction in capacities or by their situation. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

Quinton Methodist Church fully agrees with the Connexional statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space* 2007:

> *As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.*

The Church recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

In the light of the above principles:

1. Quinton Methodist Church commits itself to **RESPOND** without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether

in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.

2. Quinton Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the **IMPLEMENTATION** of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches. This can be found by clicking on this link:-

***https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/18740/safeguarding_policy_procedures_and_guidance_for_the_methodist_church_sept_2020.pdf***

3. Quinton Methodist Church commits itself to the **PROVISION** of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

4. Quinton Methodist Church **AFFIRMS** and gives thanks for the work of those who are workers with children and vulnerable adults and acknowledges the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding vulnerable adults who are on our premises.
5. Quinton Methodist Church appoints **DAVID HOUSLEY** as Church Safeguarding Officer and supports him/her in their role which is to:

i) support and advise the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles
ii) provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
iii) liaise with Circuit and District Safeguarding Officers
iv) promote safeguarding best practice within the local church with the support of circuit ministers
v) Ensure proper records are kept of all incidents/concerns according to Methodist policy and practice.
vi) Ensure that all safeguarding training which is required is undertaken by those in post and appropriate records kept and made available
vii) Attend training and meetings organised to support the role
viii) Oversee safeguarding throughout the whole life of the church e.g. lettings, groups property, etc.
ix) Report to the Church Council annually
x) Ensure the church completes a yearly audit/monitoring on safeguarding, confirming that policies are in place for the church, and all groups and lettings in the church, and that these have been annually reviewed
xi) Ensure the church completes a risk assessment on areas of activity in the church and this is stored and reviewed annually. This should be made available if asked for
xii) Ensure that the church recruits safely for all posts xiii) Ensure that the church has displayed safeguarding notices with copy of the current, signed safeguarding policy, ***details of the link to the Safeguarding section of the Methodist Church web site,*** contact numbers for local and national helplines and other suitable information.

**a) Purpose**

The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church (2017).

**b) Good Practice**

We believe good practice means that:

i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.

ii) Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons, in which case a written note of this will be made and kept noting date, time and place of visit.

iii) ***The church premises will be assessed by the Church Safeguarding Officer with the property steward and/or their representatives at least annually for safety for children and vulnerable adults and the risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council in written form. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable. iv) Any church-organised transport of children or vulnerable adults will be checked to ensure the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort are appropriate. An agreed record kept in the church file for each driver/car.***

v) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The Church Council will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

**c) Pastoral visitors**

In terms of safeguarding, Pastoral Visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of basic safeguarding training upon appointment.

**d) *Guidelines for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults***

***Guidance will be produced and reviewed annually to be given to each worker with children, young people and vulnerable adults outlining good practice and systems. The leaflet will be reviewed annually with this policy***.

**e) Ecumenical events**

Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of this Church Council.

f) **Events with church groups off the premises**

Adequate staffing, a risk assessment and notification of the event to be given to the Church Safeguarding Officer PRIOR to the agreement for any event or offsite activity. Notification of the event will be given to the Church Safeguarding Officer who will forward it immediately to the Circuit Safeguarding Officer in order that a response can be made, where appropriate. The District Safeguarding Officer and District Safeguarding Group will need to be informed of all off site events, when appropriate.

g) **Other groups on church premises**

Where the building is hired for outside use, the person signing the letting agreement will be given a copy of this policy. The lettings secretary will consider the various users of the building in making lettings. Lettings will be notified to the Church Safeguarding Officer who will keep the records and take advice as appropriate from both the DSO and CSO.

h) **Complaints procedure**

It is hoped that any concerns raised can generally be dealt with internally by the organisations. However, a complaint may be made to a person who will be appointed by the Church Council, usually the safeguarding Officer. If a complaint is made to another person, it should be passed to the Minister who will arrange to meet with the complainant and attempt to resolve the complaint. In either case a 'Record of Concern' form must be completed and given to the Safeguarding Officer. If the complaint cannot be resolved, consideration will be given to invoking the complaints system of the Methodist Church which will involve initially speaking with the Local Complaints Officer.

i) **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council. The date of the next review is October 2026 (recently approved on 20/10/2026).

j) **Key concepts and definitions**

i) Vulnerable Adults: Any adult aged 18 or over who, due to disability, mental function, age or illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves.

ii) Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care. iii) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.

iv) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult

or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

In the event of a safeguarding issue arising please contact the Minister and our Circuit Safeguarding officer.

Quinton Methodist Church Safeguarding Officer:
Mr David Housley
Email : qmcsafeguarding@quintonmethodistchurch.co.uk

Dated 20 October 2026
Signed **REV ANN VARKER** Minister