

Safeguarding Policy Statement June 2024
Avenue St Andrew's United Reformed Church

General

This church is involved in outreach to the local community. We value all those who participate in our groups, who are entrusted to our care and who use our premises. Therefore, we take seriously our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all, especially children, young people and Adults at Risk. We recognise that safeguarding is a whole church responsibility. The policy statement below outlines the standards upheld and expected by the South-West Hants Group. It is applied in conjunction with the national URC's safeguarding document, Good Practice 6

Safeguarding Policy Statement

1. We aim to provide a loving environment, which is safe and caring, and where there is an informed vigilance about the dangers of abuse.
2. We seek to serve all by nurturing their spiritual, physical, mental and emotional development.
3. We recognise that it is the responsibility of each one of our staff (paid and unpaid) and each church member, to prevent the neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse of children, young people and adults at risk, and to take action in accordance with our policy.
3. We recognise our responsibility to implement, maintain and regularly review our policy and procedures that are designed to be alert to and prevent such abuse, drawing on the expertise of the URC Wessex Synod.
4. We are committed to supporting, resourcing, training and supervising all our staff that work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
5. We aim to maintain good links with groups using our church premises, but expect they shall support their own effective safeguarding policies and procedures following regulations and the latest good practice.
6. We will report any abuse of children or adults at risk that we discover or suspect and where a criminal offence may have been committed, the police will be contacted as a matter of urgency**.
7. All those working with children and young people within our church are checked 5 yearly by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and comply with the requirements of the Independent Safeguarding Authority.
8. We will annually review our procedures regarding the implementation of this policy and maintain the appropriateness of the content in the light of new guidelines.

Reviewed June 2024

* More detailed information is to be found in the church's full policy, available on request

**We recognise that the responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child is with Children's Services, Adult Services for adults at risk. For allegations and concern about paid or voluntary people working with children it is for the Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs) to investigate. Officers for the URC Wessex Synod for Youth and Vulnerable Adults will be involved.