



Pantygwydr Baptist Church
Safeguarding Procedures –
Children and Young People
November 2018

Introduction to Procedures

Pantygwydr Baptist Church, Ernald Place, Swansea, SA2 0HN

Charity Number: 1126593

Introduction

Following the example of Jesus, we want to welcome children and young people into our Church and give them time and attention. All children and young people, whatever their age, gender, racial background, culture, faith or disability should have the opportunity to grow up safe from harm, as valued members of the Church community. They should be treated with respect, listened to, kept safe and prayed for.

Many people say that good practice in this area of activity is just common sense. However, the variation in what is considered to be common sense in childcare terms is enormous. It is because of this that we have to make a special effort to try and define good practice. Sometimes good practice needs to deal with issues that we may take for granted, but because we are dealing with other people's children, we have to be especially careful. Good practice is not a straightjacket, designed to stop us doing things. On the contrary, it is to enable us to do the things children and young people enjoy in a safe environment.

We all share the responsibility for promoting the welfare of children and the church has the following procedures in place to show how they are going to achieve this. Much of what is presented as good practice is good practice irrespective of Safeguarding Children issues. These are the standards we want to operate because we strive to do the very best for children and young people.

These procedures are first and foremost about protecting children and young people. However, they will also help to protect workers from false accusation or unnecessary and unwarranted suspicion.

These procedures recognise and reflect:

- The UN Convention on the rights of the Child;
- The Children Act 1989 & 2004;
- All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008;
- Safeguarding Children: Working Together Under the Children Act 2004;
- Safe From Harm: a code of practice for safeguarding the Welfare of children in Voluntary Organisations in England and Wales;
- Safe to Grow: A Safeguarding Children and Young People Resource for the Local Church from Baptist Union of Great Britain 2011.

Scope and Definitions

The following procedures apply to children and young people associated with the Church.

“Children and young people” means a person under 18 years of age.

“Associated with the Church” means:

- Attendance at services, meetings and activities organised by or promoted in the name of Pantygydr Baptist Church (wherever held);
- Attendance at services, meetings and activities held at Pantygydr Baptist Church (whether organised by the church or others).

“Worker” means any person involved in working with children or young people organised by, or promoted in the name of Pantygydr Baptist Church, whether paid or voluntary.

“Safeguarding Trustee” The responsibilities of the Safeguarding Trustee/Deacon are:

- to ensure on behalf of the trustees/deacons that there is a proper process in place to write and update the safeguarding policy and procedures;
- to monitor the implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the trustees;
- to ensure that the policy and procedures are reviewed annually and to present the report of the annual review to the trustees;
- to receive reports from the Designated Person for Safeguarding (see below) regarding any safeguarding incidents in the life of the church and to be responsible for keeping the trustees informed as appropriate;
- In the event that there is no trustee/deacon named to take on this responsibility it should be assumed that this role will be taken by the Church Secretary.

“Designated Person for Safeguarding” The Designated Person’s role is to:

- receive and record information from anyone who has safeguarding concerns;
- assess the information promptly and carefully, clarifying or obtaining more information when they need to;
- consult with outside bodies where appropriate to discuss concerns - for example a Regional Minister, the Local Authority Designated Officer, Social Services or the police child abuse investigation team;
- make a formal referral to Social Services or the police if appropriate or as advised;
- inform both the Safeguarding Trustee/Deacon and the minister of any referral;
- make referrals as appropriate to the Independent Safeguarding Authority;
- be the link between the church and the local Baptist Association for safeguarding matters.

“Minister” The Minister’s Role is to:

- be made aware of any safeguarding and child protection issues within the church;
- take responsibility for ensuring that appropriate pastoral support is provided in the context of any safeguarding investigation. In these circumstances the minister’s responsibility is to offer pastoral leadership to the whole church community.

It may not be appropriate for the minister to offer pastoral care directly to those involved, but to ensure that the pastoral needs of all are being met. It is important for the minister to recognise that it is not possible or appropriate for one person to offer pastoral care to both an alleged victim and an alleged perpetrator of abuse. Church communities can too easily become polarised in these situations and it is important for the minister to be able to take a role that seeks to hold the church together.

Wherever possible the minister should not be the Designated Person for Safeguarding. If the minister is the person in the church responsible for making referrals to the statutory authorities when safeguarding concerns arise, the minister’s capacity to offer pastoral leadership that holds the church community together may be compromised.