

CHEDDAR BAPTIST CHURCH SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This document is maintained by:	The Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) and the Safeguarding Trustee, reporting back to the Leadership Team
Status:	Approved
Reviewed by	Redrafted by the Church Secretary in consultation with the Safeguarding Trustee January 2026 Reviewed by the Leadership Team and the DPS January 2026 Approved by the Church Annual General Meeting on 17 th March 2026
Issued:	17 th March 2026
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Who should read this?	All Church Members, all those working with children or vulnerable adults at Cheddar Baptist Church and all Charity Trustees

1 INTRODUCTION

The Cheddar Baptist Church Safeguarding Policy Statement has been written using the Baptist Union of Great Britain template as a foundation.

This Statement is intended to be used in conjunction with the Cheddar Baptist Church Safeguarding Procedures. The Cheddar Baptist Church Safeguarding Good Practice Guidelines should also be referred to as necessary.

2 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

2.1 Child

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

2.2 Adult at risk

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'*.

2.3 Worker

For the sake of simplicity, all those working with children or adults at risk at Cheddar Baptist Church will be referred to as "workers" within this document, whether they are paid workers or unpaid volunteers.

3 SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR CHEDDAR BAPTIST CHURCH

3.1 Our mission

The mission of Cheddar Baptist Church is "we hope: to be a friendly and welcoming community; to find ways that communicate the gospel message appropriately to people of every age; to engage and participate in village life with the other Christian Churches of the Cheddar Valley; to build healthy relationships within and outside the church family in order to express and proclaim an authentic Christian witness; and to explore and find new ways of being God's church at this time and in this place."

In fulfilling this mission, we: welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community; run activities for children and adults at risk; and make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk.

3.2 Our safeguarding responsibilities

Cheddar Baptist Church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

3.3 Prevention and reporting of abuse

It is the duty of each church member to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

3.4 Safer recruitment, support and supervision of workers

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children and adults at risk.

3.5 Respecting children and adults at risk

The church will adopt a code of behaviour (see section 5 of the Cheddar Baptist Church Safeguarding Policy: "Safer Behaviour") for all who are appointed to work with children and adults at risk so that all children and adults are shown the respect that is due to them.

3.6 Safer working practices

The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

3.7 A safer community

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children, young people and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

4 SAFEGUARDING CONTACT POINTS WITHIN OUR CHURCH

The church has appointed the following individuals to form 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.

PAT REEVES, 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.

Phone number Home 01934 740395 mobile 07779213380

Email address patriciajreeves@gmail.com

DEBBIE NEWTON, 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.

Phone number 01934 750333

Email address newton777@btinternet.com

LEANNE MAREGA, 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.

Phone number 07393717713

Email address cbcsafeguarding07@gmail.com

PAUL SPANRING, our church minister is also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team.

Phone number 07565 276223

Email address paul.spanring@gmail.com

Further definitions of these roles can be found in section 8 of the Cheddar Baptist Church Safeguarding Good Practice Guidelines "Safeguarding roles and responsibilities".

5 PUTTING OUR POLICY INTO PRACTICE

- 5.1.1 A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard and church office and made available on our church website.
- 5.1.2 Each worker with children and/or adults at risk and each Charity Trustee will be given a full copy of this policy and the Cheddar Baptist Church Safeguarding Procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them.
- 5.1.3 A full copy of the policy and the Cheddar Baptist Church Safeguarding Procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with, the church.
- 5.1.4 The policy will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- 5.1.5 The policy statement will be read annually at the church AGM, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.