



## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT**

### **Kelvedon United Reformed Church**

The following statement was agreed by the leadership of Kelvedon United Reformed Church.

Safeguarding is taken seriously by Kelvedon United Reformed Church.

We define safeguarding as the promotion of the safety and welfare of children and adults who are at risk of, or experiencing harm, abuse or neglect in all forms. We acknowledge children's and adults' right to protection from any form of abuse or neglect regardless of age, gender reassignment, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity. Therefore, as members and workers of the church, we are committed to:

- the care and nurture of all children and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children and adults at risk
- the establishment of a loving church environment which is safe and caring for all people and where the dignity of each person is respected
- an informed vigilance about the dangers of all forms of abuse, harm and neglect within all aspects of work in the Church, and how to respond appropriately
- ensuring everyone who engages with the life of the Church is responsible for keeping people safe
- working together with voluntary/statutory agencies and other denominations and faith-based organisations.

We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent any form of abuse and neglect of children and adults and ensure the well-being and pastoral care of those who are or may be at risk.

We will prevent abuse for extremist or other purposes and put all suitable health and safety arrangements in place as well as safeguarding, first aid, fire safety and online safety policies that everyone understands.

We will create and maintain a safe and inclusive environment for all, especially children and adults at risk, in which the dignity and rights of each person are respected.

We believe that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and inconsistent with a Christian way of living and it can affect both adults and children.

We will always acknowledge that the welfare of the child and adult at risk is paramount, and that the priority is always to act in their best interests, following legislation, statutory guidance and recognised good practice guidance to enable them access to support and protection.

We will support everyone to ensure that as a place of worship all will work within the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.

We will exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of Elders and those who will work with children or adults at risk within the Church, whether paid, volunteers, lay or ordained.

We will ensure that staff and volunteers are suitable and legally able to act in their positions.

We will use DBS checks as part of a wide range of checks on staff and volunteers to ensure that we have a broad and informed view to assist us in minimising the risk of abuse, harm or neglect.

We will support, supervise, resource and train all those who undertake work with children and adults in need of protection.

We will respond without delay to every concern, incident or complaint which suggests that a child or adult has been harmed or is at risk of harm and cooperate with ecumenical partners, the Police, DO (the Designated Officer, formerly known as LADO), Children's Partnership Boards (formally Local Safeguarding Children's Boards) and Children's and Adult Social Care Services in any investigation, while maintaining confidentiality of any investigations to those directly involved.

We are committed to working with those who have suffered or suffer any form of abuse, offering appropriate pastoral support where possible as well as to challenging any abuse of power, especially where it involves someone in a position of trust.

We will manage risks and those who might pose a risk to the welfare of people and the life of the Church and offer support to those known to pose a risk to children and/or adults, including supervision, referral to the appropriate agencies, and implementation of safeguarding contracts, when appropriate.

We are committed to ensuring that any allegations, concerns and complaints about abuse or neglect that we discover or suspect are recorded accurately, reported promptly and shared safely within and outside the denomination.

We will review our safeguarding policy, practices and procedures annually, considering lessons learned from safeguarding cases and changes in legislation, statutory guidance and good working practice.

We ensure the physical safety of all who use the premises by completing and regularly reviewing a fire risk assessment and fire safety plans. Our volunteers are also informed to follow the 'Stay Safe' principles in the event of a terrorist attack.

We will ensure processes and practices in all aspects of safeguarding, including discipline, risk management, whistleblowing and bullying/harassment in alignment with Good Practice 5 – United Reformed Church's Policy and Guidance in Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk.

Any local policy changes will be formally approved by the church Elders.

The **Safeguarding Coordinator** is the person to whom all concerns or allegations should be addressed for appropriate actions to be taken:

Name: Emma Keegan  
Telephone Number: 01376 572715  
Email: emmaandfred.keegan@gmail.com

In the absence of the Safeguarding Coordinator, the **Synod Safeguarding Officer** should be contacted:

Name: Candice Hart  
Telephone number: 078492 767750 / 01223 830 770  
Email: safeguarding@urceastern.org.uk

**ThirtyOne:Eight** (formerly the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service / CCPAS) (This should only be used for urgent advice if you are unable to contact your Synod Safeguarding Officer)  
24 hour helpline: **0303 003 1111**

#### **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) (Essex County Council)**

Name – **The Essex LADO Duty Team**  
Telephone No - **03330 139797 (\*Out of hours 0345 606 1212)**  
Email – **lado@essex.gov.uk**  
Statutory contact in the case of a **child**

#### **Essex County Council**

If a child or young person is in immediate danger, call **999**.  
If you're worried that a child is being abused or neglected, call us on **0345 603 7627**.  
Out of hours or bank holidays, call the emergency duty team on **0345 606 1212**

#### **Essex County Council – (Adult Social Care)**

Statutory contact in the case of an **adult at risk**  
**0345 603 7630**

Email – **socialcaredirect@essex.gov.uk**

Monday to Thursday, 8:45am to 5pm

Friday, 8:45am to 4:30pm

**For out of hours queries contact the Emergency Duty Service**

Telephone: **0345 606 1212**

#### **The Elders**

**Kelvedon United Reformed Church**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023**