

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY



Newtownards Baptist Church is passionate about children, and teaching them the good news of salvation contained in God's Word, the Bible, and in light of that to support them to live a life of God-honouring discipleship.

Everyone will be treated fairly and equally, regardless of age, race, gender or disability. We are committed to seeing this happen within a safe environment, safeguarding the welfare of children and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm. This policy accounts for all children aged under 18 and those considered as vulnerable adults.

The Trustees of the Church have approved this policy and its guidelines. The procedures contained herein will be followed at all times:

1. Workers

All adults selected to work within our children's work will have to be aged 18 (or over), police-checked (by Access NI), and trained by us, in order to work with children and vulnerable adults. As a result of implementing such procedures, parents can be more assured of our workers' suitability, and of the confidence placed in them by the Church Leadership.

2. Training

All children's workers will attend Safeguarding Induction training and are required to undergo a refresher course on a regular basis, as required. All workers are expected to assist and comply with their Organisation Leader.

3. Designated Person(s)

The Trustees have appointed 'Nicola Thompson' as the Designated Person to provide consultation, advice and support to all organisations and to the Trustees on matters concerning the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Any matter brought to the attention of the Designated Person will be treated in strict confidence. Information will be divulged only where there is a legitimate need-to-know.

4. Reporting of Concerns

Church Members and approved workers will be fully conversant with the reporting procedures where there is concern about the welfare of a child, vulnerable adult or conduct of any member and approved worker. Church Members and approved workers also must not hesitate to report to the Designated Person, if they are at any time concerned. Significant concerns will be forwarded to the relevant Legal Authorities.

5. Parental Consent Forms

Organisation Leaders must ensure that they have home contact details, consent, medical or additional information regarding the children in their organisation. Parents/Guardians will be informed, and special consent forms will be issued for any 'off the premises' activity and residential programmes.

6. Standards of Practice.

Each organisation will be expected to comply with the good standards of practice outlined in our 'Best of Care' Guidelines. These standards include such things as: physical contact, recommended adult/child ratios, use of transport, residential programmes and outings, photographs/video, and working with children or vulnerable adults who may have additional needs. Our guidance is governed by all relevant current legislation and law.

7. Technology

Church Members and approved workers should seek to limit the direct Internet and mobile communication they have with individual children and vulnerable adults. Church Members and approved workers will operate under the standards outlined in our 'Best of Care' Guidelines in order to protect children, vulnerable adults and themselves.

8. Health and Safety

The Trustees expect organisations to adhere to the guidance on safety matters outlined in our 'Best of Care' Guidelines. Leaders will be kept informed of fire and first aid procedures. All accidents will be recorded, and Parents/Guardians will be informed at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

9. Implementation and Review

The Trustees are responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy and will review it (at least) every three years, with the advice and support of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator and Leaders in charge of our children's organisations.

*This policy comes into force
from 10th April 2025*

If you have any concerns, questions, or believe you have witnessed an incident or abuse, you can speak (in confidence) to Nicola:

Safeguarding Co-ordinator 07891 622364