

BRUNTSFIELD EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Safeguarding Statement

Bruntsfield Evangelical Church SCIO (“The Church”) is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk, ensuring their well-being. We believe in the necessity of creating a healthy culture where the value of all people is recognised and where we respond appropriately when this value is undermined. The Church will work in partnership with other relevant agencies as appropriate to ensure there are clear lines of accountability and decision-making processes within legal parameters.

In particular:

- We believe that all children, young people and adults at risk have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, spiritual, emotional abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults at risk and to report any abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We are committed to following safe recruitment procedures in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children, young people and adults at risk.
- We believe all those who attend our activities should enjoy and thrive within the life of BEC.

The Church is committed to:

- Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk and respecting their rights.
- Following and keeping up to date with statutory guidelines and requirements set out in Scottish legislation in relation to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.
- Ensuring that all staff and volunteers working on our behalf adhere to the agreed procedures and guidelines in our Safeguarding Policy.
- Ensuring all church staff and volunteers who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults (that is they carry out a regulated role) are PVG Scheme members. Volunteer and staff recruitment is subject to a satisfactory PVG Scheme Disclosure. **(Please refer to separate BEC policy titled ‘ Policy on Working with Children and Young People’)**

The Church recognises that:

- Where there are concerns about a child, young person or adult at risk then the Church will refer all allegations or concerns of abuse to the appropriate authorities. Any investigation will be undertaken by these authorities (eg Social Work, Police Scotland).
- Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and the Church will seek to encourage this mindset amongst staff and volunteers.

Statement of Compliance

As a church, we undertake to do our very best to ensure compliance at all times with the terms of this Safeguarding Policy but there may be occasions when, for good reason, absolute compliance is impractical or impossible. We seek to follow the spirit of the present policy at all times and to behave in a reasonable and responsible manner, having regard to the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults entrusted to our care.

The board of trustees of the Church are responsible for: -

Reviewing the procedures for and the efficiency with which safeguarding duties are discharged throughout the church.

Ensuring any identified deficiencies or weaknesses in safeguarding arrangements are remedied without delay.

Approving amendments to safeguarding arrangements in light of changing legislation taking into consideration recommended best practice.

Ensuring the effective governance of safeguarding and promotion of welfare is embedded throughout the church.

Ensuring regular training for the safeguarding officers and other designated volunteers to ensure best practice is adhered to.

The Trustee Liaison is responsible for: -

Quarterly review with the safeguarding officers to review procedures, staff and volunteer training provision and statutory safeguarding updates.

Dealing with allegations in the event any of the designated safeguarding officers being implicated or absent.

Annual review of the safeguarding policy.