

Strood Gospel Mission Church

Children & Young People Safeguarding Policy

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Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy & Procedures

A set of agreed policies and procedures
for ensuring a safe environment for
children and young people
within the care of our church,
in response to the Children's Act 1989.

*For the purpose of this document the term "children" refers to anyone
under the age of 18 years.*

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Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children in Strood Gospel Mission Church

(referred to as “the church” in this document)

The vision of the church is expressed in the following aim and values:

Our Aim

To glorify God by building a Christian community of mature followers of Jesus, committed to God and to one another; and to enable them to communicate and demonstrate Jesus Christ to others in a personal and relevant way.

Our Values

Authentic Worship

- A God-centred church - We seek to deepen our walk with God
- Participation, Creativity, Holy Spirit Freedom - We encourage wide participation in our worship including the exercise of spiritual gifts and personal testimony.
- Prayer - We rely upon God and prayer must be at the heart of all we seek to be and do as a church.

Becoming Disciples

- Spiritual growth - We seek to encourage each other to be mature, committed followers (disciples) of Jesus, following his example of love, service and holiness in our lives.
- Whole-life discipleship - Our Christian faith impacts our work, leisure, and family.
- Bible-based - We base our life and teaching on the Bible as the written word of God.

Creating Community

- Love - We believe God has called us to be a strong, loving community, which values all people; old or young, of whatever race or background, single or part of a family.
- Openness, accountability, and authentic friendships - In our relationships we will teach, model, and encourage these aspects.
- Wider Church - We recognise that we are part of the wider Church, and as such work and fellowship with other parts of God's Church

Doing Mission and Evangelism

- Mission - We are committed to Jesus' great commission of Mt. 28:20 *`to make disciples of all nations'*. We aim to share the gospel in a relevant way with others through word and deed.
- A servant heart for our community - We are committed to sharing the love of Jesus with the people of Strood and the surrounding area, our families, friends, neighbours, work and school colleagues.
- World Mission - We actively support the mission of the Church in the wider World.

Every-Member Ministry

- Equipping for service - We believe every believer is called to serve God. We support believers to serve God in a way that is appropriate to their spiritual gifts and practical abilities. This can be in church and community life. A major way of equipping is through relevant, biblical teaching and training.
- Caring for people - we value people over structures.

In fulfilling this vision

- we welcome children into the life of our community
- have a programme of events for children
- make our premises available to organisations working with children

The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all young people under the age of 18 (regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability) as set out in The Children Act 1989 and 2004, *Safe from Harm* (HM Government 1994) and *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Government 2010).

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 the following policies and to the development of procedures to ensure their implementation.

Prevention and reporting of abuse

It is the duty of each church member to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and to report any child abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers

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

Respecting children

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children so that all children are shown the respect that is due to them.

Safe working practices

The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

A safe community

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

Strood Gospel Mission Church Safeguarding Team

The church has appointed:

Peter Brien, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) 01634 711956

He will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected

Diana Morgan, Safeguarding Trustee 01634 721477

She will oversee and monitor the implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees

When possible, the Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise.

Our church minister is also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. Where possible, the team will work together. However, this does not diminish the responsibility of each individual to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

(further definitions of these roles can also be found in the BUGB publication, Safe To Grow, 2011)

Policy and Procedures

A copy of the policy statement will be held on the church website (www.stroodgospelmission.org.uk) and a hardcopy on the Health & Safety notice board in the Main Hall.

Each worker with children will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and will be asked to sign that they are willing to follow them.

A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually.

This policy statement (pages 4-7 of this document) will be read annually at the church meeting in November together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.

Signed ... 

Dated 26/11/20

Definitions of Abuse

Physical Abuse

Actual or likely physical injury to a child, or failure to prevent physical injury to a child.

Emotional Abuse

The persistent, emotional, ill treatment of a child that affects their emotional and behavioural development. It may involve conveying to the child that they are worthless and unloved, inadequate, or that they are given responsibilities beyond their years.

Sexual Abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This includes no-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Where adults fail to care for children and protect them from danger, seriously impairing health and development.

Whilst it is not possible to be prescriptive about the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect, the following list sets out some of the indicators which might be suggestive of abuse:

Unexplained injuries on areas of the body not usually prone to such injuries

An injury that has not been treated/received medical attention

An injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent

A child discloses behaviour that is harmful to them

Unexplained changes in behaviour or mood (e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden bursts of temper)

Inappropriate sexual awareness

Signs of neglect, such as under-nourished, untreated illnesses, inadequate care.

It should be recognised that this list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more indicators is not in itself proof that abuse is actually taking place. It is also important to remember that there might be other reasons why most of the above are occurring.

Responding to Concerns

What do we do if abuse is suspected or disclosed?

Everyone has his or her part to play in ensuring the safeguarding of children within the church.

If the behaviour of a child gives any cause for concern -

If an allegation is made in any context about a child being harmed -

If the behaviour of any adult (including colleagues and members of the public) towards children causes you concern -

Do not dismiss your concerns

Do not normally confront the adult about whose behaviour you have concerns

Do not take responsibility for deciding whether or not child abuse is actually taking place

Do not investigate allegations

Do not act alone

Do not take sole responsibility for what has been shared or any concerns you may have

Do follow the church's procedures for responding to concerns.

Do	Don't
Listen and Clarify	Minimise what is said
Give Support	Show shock, alarm or disapproval
Explain What happens next	Question or push for information
Take Action	Offer false reassurance

If the Designated Person for Safeguarding is not available, any reports or concerns should be passed to another member of the Safeguarding Team.

If a child is considered to be in imminent danger of harm a report should be made immediately to the police or Social Services (see appendix 1, page 26, for relevant telephone numbers.)

STAGE 1 - RECORD AND REPORT

The duty of the person who receives information or who has a concern about the welfare of a child or young person is to RECORD their concerns in writing and to REPORT their concerns to the Designated Person. If he/she is not contactable reports should be made to the Safeguarding Trustee.

The report to the Designated Person should be made within 24 hours of the concern being raised.

The duty to RECORD & REPORT

As soon as possible after a child tells you about harmful behaviour, or an incident takes place that gives cause for concern, a written record should be made.

The record should:

- Be hand-written as soon as possible after the event.
- Be legible and state the facts accurately (when hand-written notes are typed up later the original hand-written notes should be retained)
- include the child's name, address, date of birth (or age if the date of birth is not known)
- include the nature of the concerns/allegation/disclosure
- include a description of any bruising or other injuries that you may have noticed
- include an exact record of what the child has said using the child's words
- include what was said by the person to whom the concerns were reported
- include any action taken as a result of the concerns
- be signed and dated
- be kept secure and confidential and made available only to:

the Safeguarding Team

the church minister as far as this is consistent with the welfare of the child concerned and possible pastoral responsibilities to any others involved

representatives of the professional agencies

If such a report is made in an emergency without reference to one of the Safeguarding Team, one of them should be informed as soon as possible after the report has been made.

If concerns arise in the context of a children's group, the worker who has

the concern may in the first instance wish to talk through their concern with their group leader. However, such conversations should not delay a report being made to the Designated Person.

It should be clear that the duty remains with the worker to record and report their concerns to the Designated Person.

If a concern is brought to the attention of a group leader by one of the workers the leader should remind the worker of their duty to record and report, and will also themselves have a duty to report the concern to the Designated Person.

If a child is considered to be in imminent danger of harm a report should be made immediately to the police or Social Services (see appendix 1, page 26, for relevant telephone numbers.)

STAGE 2 - REVIEW AND REFER

The duty of the Designated Person on receiving a report is to REVIEW the concern that has been reported and to REFER the concern on to the appropriate people.

The duty to REVIEW

In reviewing the report that is received, the Safeguarding Team:

should take account of their own experience and expertise in assessing risk to children

must take account of other reports that may have been received concerning the same child, family or adult

may speak with others in the church (including the Minister) who may have relevant information and knowledge that would impact on any decision that will be made

such conversations should not lead to undue delay in taking any necessary action.

may consult with other agencies to seek guidance and advice in knowing how to respond appropriately to the concerns that have been raised.

The duty to REFER

The Safeguarding Team will make a decision about who the report should be referred on to. They may:

refer back to the worker who made the initial report if there is little evidence that a child is being harmed. asking for appropriate continued observation

refer the concern to others who work with the child/children in question asking for continued observation

refer to parents / carers under certain circumstances, but only where doing so would not present any further risk of harm.

Make a formal referral to the local Social Services Department

All original reports should be retained safely and securely by the Designated Person and a written record should be made of the actions taken. An example report form can be found in Appendix 2, page 27.

STAGE 3 - REPORT AND SUPPORT

Responsibilities in stage 3 of the process are shared by the Safeguarding Team and the Minister.

The duty to REPORT

Whenever a formal referral is made to Social Services the Designated Person should

report the referral to the Safeguarding Trustee

report the referral to the Minister

report the referral to the SEBA safeguarding representative

In certain circumstances the Safeguarding Trustee acting on behalf of the trustees may also need to make further reports, for example to the Charity Commission

If an allegation is made against someone who works with children the allegation should be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The LADO is located within Children's Services and should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child

possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child

behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates she/he is unsuitable to work with children.

If a worker has an allegation made against them they should step down from all church duties until the incident has been investigated.

If a worker has been removed from their post or would have been removed from their post because of the risk of harm that they pose to children and young people there is a statutory duty to report the incident to the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

If a worker in the church has been accused of causing harm to children or young people this would be classed as a serious incident that should be reported to the Charity Commission in the annual return by those churches that are registered with the Charity Commission.

A record should be kept of all safeguarding incidents and these must be kept safely and securely. Consideration of all reports should be included in the annual review of the church's safeguarding policy.

The duty to SUPPORT

Once concerns, suspicions and disclosures of abuse have been addressed, the church continues to have a responsibility to offer support to all those who have been affected, including: the child, other family members, church worker/volunteer(s), safeguarding team, ministers/ leadership team and the alleged perpetrator.

Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers

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

Guidelines for the Appointment of Children's Leaders and Helpers

The Church should ensure that the following selection procedures have been followed:

A written role description for each post

All volunteers (both current and new) should have completed an application form

Prospective volunteers to be interviewed

Two references will be taken up (at least one should be from outside of the church)

DBS will be applied for and a self-disclosure form must be completed

The worker will be appointed for a probationary period of 6 months.

The volunteer should sign an undertaking to work within the agreed safeguarding policy and procedures

Induction into the relevant procedures and ways of working will be undertaken (to include safeguarding training)

Administration of this process will be overseen by the Designated Person, but may be carried out by others.

Until this procedure is completed, workers must be supervised.

All leaders and helpers working with children should have a calling to do so, which should in turn, be recognised by the Church Leadership Team and have the agreement of existing children's leaders and helpers.

The first priority of leaders and helpers should be their own spiritual welfare, and therefore, they should receive teaching and be part of a worship service or life group regularly.

All leaders and helpers should set a good example for Christ in their personal lifestyle.

Meetings for leaders and helpers will be held approximately once per term, for support and planning.

However anyone may raise any concerns or suggestions regarding the ministry amongst children with any of the Safeguarding Team or Leadership Team at any time.

Young leaders under 18 years of age

In law young leaders under the age of 18 are children and cannot be treated as adult members of a team.

Training and mentoring will be given to ensure that the young leader is helped to develop and hone skills, attitudes and experience.

A young leader must be closely supervised by an adult leader at all times, and never given sole responsibility for a group of children.

When considering ratios of staff to children the young leader needs to be counted as a child, not a leader.

The Safeguarding Children Policy applies to a young leader just as it does to any other person.

The permission of parents or carers needs to be sought for the young leader just as you would for any other person under 18 years of age

If the young leader accompanies a group on a residential activity, ideally they should have separate sleeping accommodation to both the adult leadership team and the children with whom they are working.

Young Leaders should not be given leadership responsibility for a group immediately below their own age, to leave a gap of at least two years.

When concerns are expressed about the Minister

Any safeguarding concerns involving a Minister should always be reported immediately to the SEBA safeguarding representative in addition to following the church's normal procedures.

When concerns are expressed about the Designated person

Any safeguarding concerns involving the Designated person for safeguarding the concern should be raised with the Safeguarding trustee and/or the Minister.

Respecting children and young people

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children and so that all children and young people are shown the respect that is due to them.

Respecting children

The following are guidelines for a code of behaviour.

Leaders and Helpers should:

Treat all children with respect and dignity. Use age appropriate language and tone of voice. Be aware of your own body language and invading a person's personal space.

Use age appropriate language and tone of voice. Be aware of your own body language and the effect you are having on the individual child.

Listen well to children. Be careful not to assume you know what a child is thinking or feeling. Listen to what is spoken and how it is said. At the same time, observe the body language to better understand what is being said.

Do not engage in any of the following:

invading the privacy of children when they are using the toilet or showering

rough games involving physical contact between a leader and a child

sexually provocative games

making sexually suggestive comments about or to a child, even in 'fun'

scapegoating, belittling, ridiculing, or rejecting a child.

When it is necessary to control and discipline children, this should be done without using physical punishment. (A situation may, however, arise where a child needs to be restrained in order to protect them or a third person.)

Make sure another adult is present if, for example, a young child has soiled their underclothes and needs to be thoroughly washed. If possible, the child's own parent or carer should be called in to carry out such a task.

Do not respond to or encourage excessive attention-seeking that is overtly sexual or physical in nature.

Workers should not plan to be alone with children. On church premises

this may mean leaving doors open, or two groups working in the same room.

If a child wants to talk to a leader one-to-one, try to do this in the quiet corner of a room where others are present. Should a leader find themselves unexpectedly on their own with a child, they should immediately contact a co-worker or member of the church leadership team to make them aware of the situation. They should also consider the risk of sending the child home (informing parents/carers if possible).

Visiting Children or Young People at Home

It is unlikely that workers will need to make pastoral visits to children and their families at home on behalf of the church. If a situation occurs where it is needed then it should be done in pairs, and with the prior agreement of the Minister.

Leaders and Helpers should:

Only invite young people to your home, or on trips, in groups, and always make sure another adult is present. The Designated Person should be notified of any trips for children which take place in the name of Strood Gospel Mission Church. Parental permission must always be sought for such an event.

Not give lifts to young people on their own. Ensure that if transporting children that you have the correct insurance cover for passengers. Ensure you have parental permission for giving lifts.

Not share sleeping accommodation with children if you take a group away.

Be aware of any physical contact they may have with young people and record it when necessary. For instance, if they need to stop a fight, administer First Aid, give a hug to a child who is distressed, remove a child from danger, or protect themselves or others from attack.

Not use physical punishment when controlling or disciplining children.

Keep a log book; If any significant incidents take place a record should be kept in the Church Incident Book. Enter the names of both children and adults present and anything of note which you observe, e.g. details of any fights broken up by the workers, allegations made by young people, incidences where a child is asked to leave. All workers who witnessed, heard or responded in any way should record details, and sign and date the entry.

Abuse of Trust

Relationships between children and their leaders/helpers can be described as 'relationships of trust'. The leader is someone in whom the child has placed a degree of trust, this may be because the leader has an educational role, is a provider of leisure activities, or even is a significant adult friend.

It is not acceptable for a leader/helper to form a romantic relationship with a child with whom they have a relationship of trust.

While by no means restricted to young leaders, those who are in their early adult years will need to be particularly aware of the need not to abuse their position of trust in their relationships with other young people who are not much younger than themselves.

Consent Forms

It is essential that we have important information about all children and young people involved in any activities at the church. This should include names, medical emergency information and a contact name and number. Information should be collected as soon as a child or young person begins attending a group and the consent form, signed by a parent/carer, should be completed as soon as possible. A template consent form is included as Appendix 3, page 31

When children turn up to and want to join in with church activities without the knowledge of their parents/carers, workers will:

- Welcome the child and try to establish their name, age, address and telephone number.
- Record their visit in a register.
- Ask the child if a parent/carer is aware of where they are. Where possible, phone and make contact.
- Without interrogating the child, find out as soon as possible whether they have any specific needs (eg. medication) so that you can respond appropriately in an emergency.
- Give the child a consent form and explain it needs to be filled in and brought back next time.

Electronic Communication

Electronic communication has become enormously important and popular. It is an easy way to communicate with young people in particular. However, there are dangers associated with electronic communication that call for vigilance:

- electronic communication is often an extremely informal mode of communication which can create the potential for communication to be misunderstood;
- because of the informal style of electronic communication workers can easily cross appropriate boundaries in their relationships with young people;
- some adults who are intent on harming children and young people choose to use electronic communication as a way to meet and 'groom' children.

These guidelines are written to try to maintain healthy and safe relationships between adults and children.

Electronic communication must never become a substitute for face to face contact with young people.

Parents or carers and children and young people themselves have the right to decide if a worker is to have email addresses or mobile phone numbers etc.

Workers should only use electronic means of communication with those children and young people from whom appropriate consent has been given.

Direct electronic communication with children of primary school age is inappropriate and should be avoided.

Only workers who have been appointed under the church's agreed procedures should use any electronic means of communication to contact children or young people on behalf of the church or one of the church's organisations.

Contact with children and young people by electronic communication should generally be for information-giving purposes only and not for general chatter.

Workers should not share any personal information with children and young people, and should not request or respond to any personal information from the child or young person other than that which is necessary and appropriate as part of their role.

Workers should be careful in their communications with children and young people so as to avoid any possible misinterpretation of their motives. Clear, unambiguous language should be used and unnecessary abbreviations should be avoided.

Electronic communication should only be used between the hours of 8am and 10pm.

Official church e-mails to young people should be sent out with a church header and footer indicating to the young people that this is an official communication, this should also be copied to the church e-mail address.

Any photos or video taken on personal mobile phones should not be uploaded to social networking sites without parental permission.

Workers should not retain images of children and young people on their mobile phone.

Instant Messaging Services (IMS)

The use of instant messenger services should be kept to a minimum.

Where a young person in need or at a point of crisis uses this as a way of communicating with a worker:

- significant conversations should be saved as a text file if possible
- a log kept of who and when they communicated.

Social Networking sites

If adults are intending to add young people to their social networking sites they must first have the permission of the parents of the young person.

Adults should not normally make 'friend requests' of young people.

It should not become expected behaviour that adults say yes to a young person when a friend request is received.

It is the adult's responsibility to ensure that all of the content on their site is appropriate for young people to see (including contents of photos uploaded).

All communication with young people should be kept within public domains.

All communications with young people should be transparent and open to scrutiny.

Remember - never alone and unseen is the basic rule of thumb in Safeguarding young people, what does this mean for your activity with electronic communication?

Good Practice Guidelines for Discipline

A policy based upon the following guidelines should be agreed upon by each different section of youth work if and when necessary. It should reflect the age group and general activities of the children.

Children should be disciplined without the use of physical punishment, shouting or name calling. Discipline is about our relationship with children not our mastery of them.

Good discipline is built on respect between leaders and children. (This does not imply equality but does have an implication for leaders' attitudes towards children).

Minor incidents/offences should be dealt with immediately on the spot. This prevents escalation and enables major offences to be seen as major.

Ways of dealing with discipline::

- Chastise the individual/group - criticise the behaviour not the person
- Move the offender to a less volatile situation - change the group activity
- Remove the child to a calm space away from others. Stay with them until they have cooled down, but keep the time out short.

If the above mentioned procedures fail to bring about the desired result, refer the issue to the Designated Person or Safeguarding Trustee

Allegations and incidents of bullying should be reported to Designated Person or Safeguarding Trustee. Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

Children with Special Needs

Children and young people who have a disability can be at greater risk of abuse. They will often require more help with personal care, such as washing, dressing, toileting, feeding, mobility, etc. Some children may have limited understanding and behave in a non-age-appropriate way. It is good practice to speak with the parents/carers of children/young people with special needs and find out from them how best to assist the child or young person.

Good Practice Guidelines with Colleagues

If you see another member of staff acting in ways, which might be misconstrued, be prepared to speak to them or to one of the Safeguarding Team about your concerns. Leaders and helpers should encourage an atmosphere of mutual support and care which allows all workers to be comfortable enough to discuss inappropriate attitudes or behaviour.

Ratios

When working with young people the following recommended minimum ratios apply:

Age range	Recommended minimum ratio for INDOOR activities	Recommended minimum ratio for OUTDOOR activities
0 – 2 years	1:3 (minimum 2)	1:3 (minimum 2)
3 years	1:4 (minimum 2)	1:4 (minimum 2)
4 – 7 years	1:8 (minimum 2)	1:6 (minimum 2)
8 – 12 years	2 adults for up to 20 children (preferably one of each gender) with an extra adult for every 10 additional children	2 adults for up to 15 children (preferably one of each gender) with an extra adult for every 8 additional children
13 years and over	2 adults for up to 20 children (preferably one of each gender) with an extra adult for every 10 additional children	2 adults for up to 20 children (preferably one of each gender) with an extra adult for every 10 additional children

This does not take into account an special circumstances such as behavioural issues, developmental issues, disability and so on, which may mean an increase to the recommended ratio.

In calculating the ratios of workers to children young leaders who are under the age of 18 should be counted as one of the children, not one of the leaders/helpers.

Good Practice Guidelines Regarding Health & Safety

All leaders and helpers are responsible for being observant for any health and safety issues which may affect their group, for example:

- Access to the building should be safe and well lit.
- There should be adequate heating and lighting in the venue.
- Ensure there is enough space and appropriate activities for all children.
- Have a First Aid kit and phone available.
- Check the premises for hazards (e.g. piles of chairs etc).
- Check equipment for sharp edges or missing parts.
- No smoking should be permitted.
- Fire drills should be carried out at least annually.
- Any food should be prepared carefully and hygienically.

Risk Assessments

A generic written risk assessment will be carried out by the group leader at the beginning of each academic year. This will cover the general week to week Sunday morning activities. A specific risk assessment will be carried out by the group leader for any other one off youth activities which may take place throughout the year.

Risk assessments will be made available to the Leadership Team.

A safe community

Safe Premises

The church takes seriously its responsibility to ensure that the premises are safe for all who use them. The following checklist identifies guidelines to ensure the safety of all, especially, children and young people:

All doorways and passages to be kept clear at all times.

Emergency Exits to be clearly shown at all times.

The kitchen is out of bounds to children and young people unless supervised by a parent, carer, leader or helper.

A First Aid Kit will be kept in the vestry next to a Report Book for all to use.

Special care with regard to safety will be taken when the baptistery is open.

Any hazards noticed should be notified to the trustees for action to be taken.

Outings and Overnight Events involving Children

There are some specific considerations which need to be made for outings and overnight events involving children:

- A risk assessment must be carried out beforehand.
- Parents will be informed in writing of all the arrangements.
- Consent forms will be obtained for the specific activities involved.
- There will be workers with first aid and food hygiene certificates with the group.

Sleeping Arrangements

Leaders and helpers shall not share sleeping accommodation with children if you take a group away.

Adventurous Activities

No child will participate in adventurous activities without the written consent of the parent /carer. The activity leader will ensure that the staff engaged in such activities are properly trained and qualified and that the correct ratio of staff to children is met. At an activity centre or for an organisation whose own staff undertake such activities, if the activities come within the scope of the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 2004, the activity leader needs to ensure that the premises are licensed.

Safety

It is the responsibility of the workers to always know the whereabouts of every child/young person participating in an overnight event, and this may include monitoring access on and off the site.

General safety rules will be applied as appropriate (e.g. no running around tents due to the risk of injury from tripping over guy lines).

Swimming Trips

There will be an increased adult to child ratio for swimming trips. Prior to the trip, workers will establish the swimming ability of the children attending and obtain specific consent. Workers should never change in front of the children.

When a known offender is present

The church should be a community that is welcoming and open to all. It is a place for people who have failed and for people in need. Those who have abused children in the past are to be included in this welcome. However, the gospel imperative to welcome the sinner needs to be set alongside the gospel imperative that the protection of children must be paramount.

Where someone attending the church is known to have abused children, then whilst extending friendship to the individual, the church in its commitment to the protection of all children will meet with the individual and discuss boundaries that the person will be expected to keep. It may be appropriate to draw up a formal contract between the church and the person who has abused.

Where necessary this will include working with other agencies such as SEBA, BUGB, Probation Service and so on.

A contract shall include the following. It:

- will identify the meetings the person will attend
- will specify that they will always sit apart from children
- may ask that they are always accompanied by a befriender on church premises
- will require the person not to attend small group meetings where children are present
- will require that the person declines hospitality where there are children
- will state that the person will never be alone with children while attending church functions
- will require the person to stay away from areas of the building where children meet.

Guidance will be sought, e.g. from the SEBA safeguarding officer, on who within the church can and should be notified if an offender joins the congregation.

It is impossible in a policy such as this to cover every scenario and ‘what if’.

Further guidance will be taken by the Safeguarding Team from “Safe to Grow” (the BU guidelines on Safeguarding). This is available from the Designated Person or Safeguarding Trustee for anyone to read if they so desire. The Safeguarding Team will take further advice and guidance from the BU, and other agencies if and when necessary.

APPENDIX 1 - USEFUL CONTACTS

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

03000 41 08 88

kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk

Police

Contact 101, or 999 in an emergency

Children's Social Services

8.45am–5pm

03000 41 11 11

social.services@kent.gov.uk

Out of hours

03000 41 91 91

South Eastern Baptist Association Safeguarding Contact

Wendy Mann

07545 686143

safeguarding@seba-baptist.org.uk

APPENDIX 2 - SAFEGUARDING INCIDENT FORM

This form should be completed by the Designated Person for Safeguarding

STROOD GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH	
Contact details of church	stroodgospelmissionchurch@gmail.com
Name of Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)	Peter Brien
Contact details of Designated Person for Safeguarding	01634 711956
Name of concerned person or to whom disclosure was given	
Contact details of concerned person or to whom disclosure was given	

INDIVIDUAL OF CONCERN - CONTACT DETAILS

Name	
Date of birth	
Address	
Phone number / Email address	

THE INCIDENT

What happened? (Nature of concern / disclosure made - use the person's own words if known)

When did it happen? (date, time)

Where did it happen? (specific location)

Who was allegedly involved and in what way? (includes witnesses)

ANY ACTION THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN

Have the carers or parents / guardians been informed?
(Please tick)

Yes	No	
-----	----	--

If so, when and by whom?

Have the statutory authorities been informed?

Yes	No	
-----	----	--

If so, please complete the table:

Authority			
Name			
Position			
Email contact			
Phone contact			
Contacted by			
Date & time of contact			

Has SEBA been informed?
(Please do so if the statutory authorities are involved)

Yes	No	
-----	----	--

If so, when and by whom?

Any other action taken:

FUTURE ACTION TO BE TAKEN

What action needs to be taken?

Who is responsible for this?

SIGNATURES

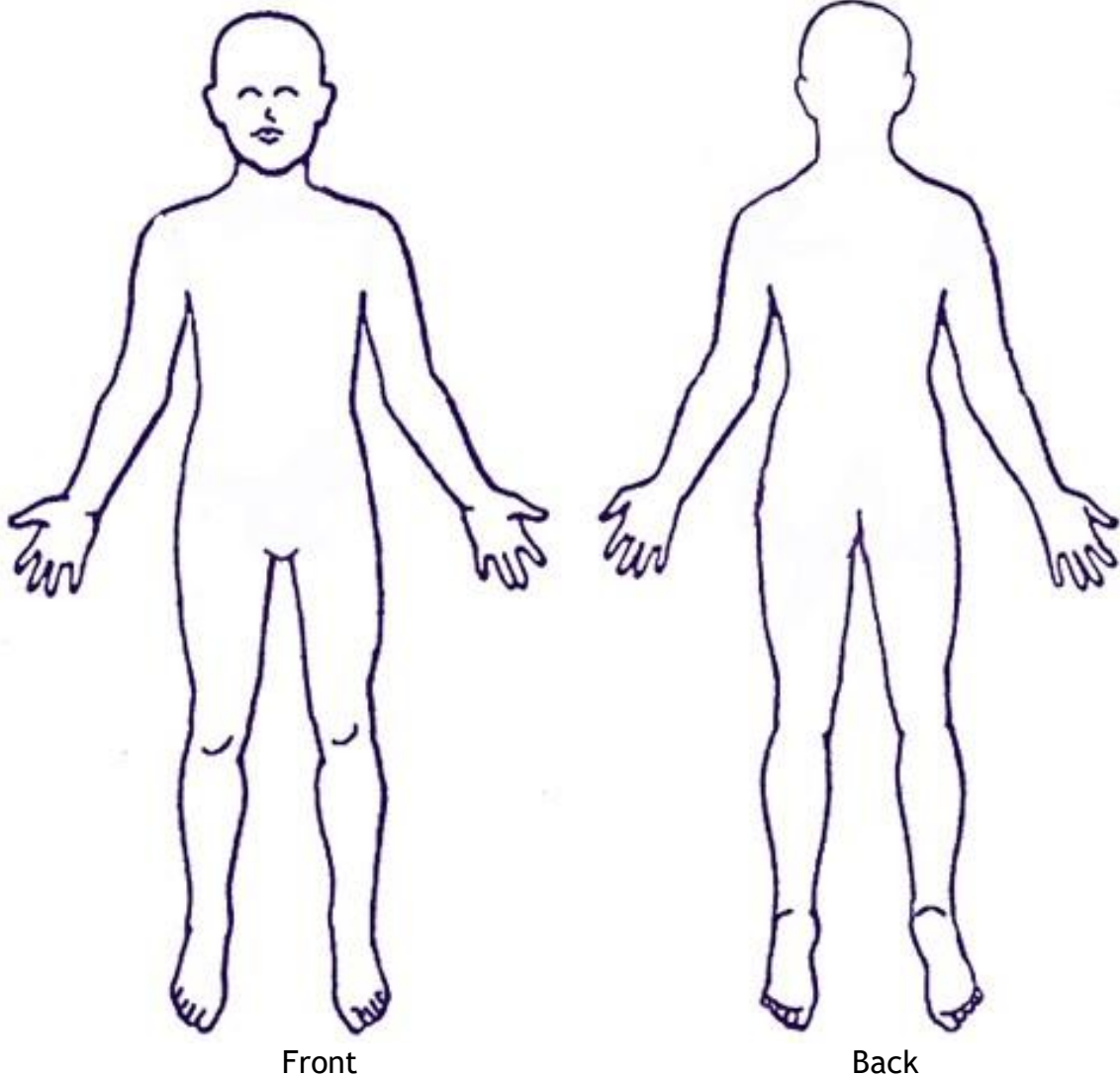
Signature of Designated Safeguarding Person		Signature of minister, or Church Safeguarding Team member	
Date & time		Date & time	

BODY MAP

Name of Individual of Concern _____

Name of person completing this form _____

These diagrams are designed for the recording of any observable bodily injuries that may appear on the person. Where bruises, burns, cuts, or other injuries occur, shade and label them clearly on the diagram. **Remember it's not your job to investigate or to decide if an injury or mark is non-accidental. Listen, observe and pass it on.**



Signature _____

Date and time _____

APPENDIX 3 - TEMPLATE PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

STROOD GOSPEL MISSION PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

•Details of activity Non hazardous Church based activities

 from 1/1/21 to 31/12/21

I agree to _____(child's name)

Date of Birth _____ taking part in this activity.

•Medical information about your child

a. Any conditions requiring medical treatment including medication?
YES/NO

If YES please give brief details (including as necessary any allergies/phobias and the nature of the treatment/medication, dosage & who is to administer it):

b. Please outline any special dietary requirements:

c. Is your son/daughter allergic to any medication? YES/NO

If YES please specify:

d. When did your son/daughter last have a tetanus injection?

•Other relevant information

Please provide any other information that may be required during activities.

I will inform the Group Leader as soon as possible of any changes in the medical or other circumstances between now and the end of the time period covered in the this form.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Home Tel no: _____

Mobile Tel no: _____

Home address _____

ALTERNATIVE EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name: _____

Home Tel no: _____

Mobile Tel no: _____

Home address _____

Relationship to child: _____

NAME OF FAMILY DOCTOR

Contact details: _____

•Medical declaration

I agree to my son/daughter receiving medication as instructed and any emergency dental, medical or surgical treatment, including anaesthetic or blood transfusion, as considered necessary by the medical authorities present. I understand the extent and limitations of the insurance cover provided.

Signed: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

•General declaration

I agree that my child will pay a subscription for each week that he/she attends. I agree that my child may be photographed and understand that these photos will NOT be downloaded onto the internet or printed in any publication. I also give permission for Jclub to store my child's name, date of birth, address, medical and contact details.

Signed: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

I also give permission for Jclub to store my child's name, date of birth, address, medical and contact details.