

# IPC Ealing Safeguarding Policy Statement (January 2022)

This Policy Statement on Safeguarding in the Church as adopted by

Ealing International Presbyterian Church

***Each person who works within this church will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.***

***This church appoints Alison Kelly as the Church Safeguarding Officer.***

***The application of this policy will be reviewed each year and a report will be presented to the Deacons' Meeting by the Church Safeguarding Officer.***

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

**We will endeavour to safeguard children, young people and adults working in line with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board guidance by:**

- Ensuring the care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- Carefully selecting and training all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes. This should be updated every three years.
- Supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work with children, young people and adults.
- Supporting parents and carers who have responsibility for bringing up children.
- Establishing safe, caring communities which provide an environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.
  - A register will be kept of all church children and youth groups that meet regularly. This and other relevant information will be stored on the church's electronic database (Churchsuite).
  - Written consent (signed by parent and legal guardian) will be required for attendance at children's and youth groups. Separate consent (signed by parent and legal guardian) will be required for attendance at children's and youth group trips outside the church.

- All parents of children (below 18 years) attending church groups at Ealing IPC will be requested to supply the Group Leader/s with details of allergies, medical conditions, fears and phobias.
  - We recommend that two adult leaders (preferably not married to each other and at least one female in mixed groups) should supervise all children's groups.
  - No one to one supervision or individual teaching of children will be held in Ealing IPC without another adult being present.
  - Repeated one-to-one visits by a child to a member of the church staff or volunteers should be discouraged and discussed with and monitored by the Child Protection Officer.
  - All outside agencies using Ealing IPC premises will be required to demonstrate to the Child Protection Safeguarding Officer/Co-ordinator/s / Deacons that they will comply with and support the Child Protection Policy for the Church.
- Recognising that it is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of children, young people and adults, and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
  - In the event of any volunteer or paid member of staff suspecting abuse, they should consult directly with the Safeguarding Officer Alison Kelly (dbs@ipc-ealing.co.uk), or one of the Child Protection Co-ordinators: Olly Mallett, Sarah Brackley or Marta Willcox.



Alison Kelly



Olly Mallett



Sarah Brackley



Marta Willcox

- Responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

- Recognising the importance of confidentiality – concerns should be discussed with the safeguarding team.
- Seeking to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him or her an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- Committing ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
- Challenging any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- Offering pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or adult.

**APPENDIX A: online and e-safety (see p.6)**

**APPENDIX B: Policy on Use, Storage and disposal of DBS data  
(available from the IPC Office: [office@ipc-ealing.co.uk](mailto:office@ipc-ealing.co.uk))**

**APPENDIX C: Working with ex-offenders or those who pose a risk  
(available from the IPC Office: [office@ipc-ealing.co.uk](mailto:office@ipc-ealing.co.uk))**

Helplines:

- Christian Safeguarding: 0116 218 4420 / [contact@thecss.co.uk](mailto:contact@thecss.co.uk)
- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Stop it Now: 0808 1000 900
- NAPAC: 0808 801 0331
- Samaritans: 116 123
- Family Lives: 0808 800 2222
- National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Action on Elder Abuse: 0808 808 8141
- Mankind (for males) 01823 33424

# IPC Ealing Safeguarding Policy Statement

## APPENDIX A: online and e-safety

This appendix is intended to be read in conjunction with IPC Ealing's safeguarding policy.

E-safety refers to safeguarding involving the use of mobile phones, computers and other electronic devices to communicate and access the internet, emails, text messages, instant messaging, social networking sites and other social media.

We welcome the development of new technologies for communicating and will use them where appropriate to enhance our work with children and young people at IPC Ealing.

We recognise our responsibility to take all reasonable measures to ensure the risks of harm to young people are minimised, as well as the need to protect staff and volunteers from inappropriate conduct from young people and from situations that may make them vulnerable to allegations of misconduct.

**Bullying and cyberbullying:** Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else – such as name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone. It can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. It is usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally. Bullying that happens online, using social networks, games and mobile phones, is often called cyberbullying. A child can feel like there is no escape because it can happen wherever they are, at any time of day or night.

## **Communicating online:**

Any communication made to a child or young person should be done during appropriate hours. Staff and volunteers should not initiate or respond to contact with a young person between 9:00pm and 9:00am unless the young person is at risk and there is no alternative means of communication.

When communicating online, use a friendly but not over-familiar personal tone, never finish a message with "x". Use appropriate emojis in conversation and do not overuse them.

Never enter into a deep and meaningful conversation online or by text. Use online and text communication only a means to transfer information, for example an invitation to a church event.

Emails to young people should copy in the child's parents. Leaders should observe the same care in language as detailed above.

## **Images:**

IPC Ealing obtains parental permission to take photographic images or videos of young people for advertising purposes only and not for personal use. Therefore, please ensure you take photographs only if you have been requested to do so. These images should then be passed on to the appropriate member of church staff as soon as possible and deleted from your device.

## **Working with children online**

Follow the same principles you would use if meeting in person. I.e. do not meet 1:1 with a child online unless there is another adult present.

For group meetings:

- Ensure you have parental consent
- Ensure that parents understand their responsibility to supervise their child
- Set ground rules in line with the principles for in-person groups
- Ensure that at least two adults are present in the group
- If possible, disable chat functionality, if not ensure that chat is monitored.
- Enable waiting room functionality and don't admit children into the main room until at least 2 adults are present
- Ensure that at least 2 adults remain in the room until the last child has left
- Maintain registers in the usual manner including a record of adults present
- Ensure that children know what to do if anything is happening that makes them feel uncomfortable or if they need to talk to an adult about anything.
- Monitor activity to ensure that no bullying is taking place
- Ensure that if breakout rooms are being used, appropriate measures are in place
- Act in accordance with the code of conduct

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**Any questions regarding this policy or safeguarding at IPC, please email our Safeguarding Officer Alison Kelly at [dbs@ipc-ealing.co.uk](mailto:dbs@ipc-ealing.co.uk)**

(January 2022,  
next planned review – January 2023)