



KING'S CHURCH

King's Church Kendal

Safeguarding Policy

April 2025

Safeguarding Policy for King's Church Kendal

April 2025

Place of worship: Kirkbie Kendal School, Lound Road, Kendal LA9 7EQ

Office address: The Shakespeare Centre, Yard 76, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4HE

Telephone Number: 01539 721176

Email: kckoffice777@gmail.com

Website: www.kingschurchkendal.net

Elders: Edward Bennett, Graham Wadsworth and David Barfoot

Trustees: Edward Bennett, Graham Wadsworth, David Barfoot, Andrew Coram, Yvonne Coram, Diane Reddin and Lynne Skellern.

Safeguarding Co-ordinator: Beth Campbell. Telephone Number: 07702 902268

Deputy Safeguarding Co-ordinator: Diane Reddin. Telephone Number: 07721041462

Membership Organisation: Christ Central Worldwide Churches Limited (Charity Number 1151447, reg in England number 08302020)

Charity Number: 1129426

Company Number: 06770192

Evangelical Alliance Number: 223668

Insurance Company: Ansvar Insurance

Insurance Company Address: Ansvar House, St Leonard's Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 3UR

King's Church Kendal meets on Sunday mornings from 10.30-12.30 in Kirkbie Kendal School and occasionally in the Shakespeare Centre or other suitable venues in Kendal. We have a time of worship and prayer with separate teaching and play activities for children aged 0-18yrs. Additionally in the week we run a playgroup for 0-4s and youth activities for 11-17 year olds.

There are also occasional residential and camping trips for both adults and children.

Our Commitment

As a Leadership at King's Church Kendal, we recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and adults. We acknowledge that children, young people and adults can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights, which states that everyone is entitled to "all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status". We also concur with the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that children should be able to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. They have a right to be protected from "all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person who has care of the child." As a Leadership we have therefore adopted the procedures set out in this safeguarding policy in accordance with statutory guidance. We are committed to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary agencies involved in safeguarding.

At King's Church Kendal all adults working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are in a position of trust. All those in positions of trust need to understand the power this can give them over those they care for and the responsibility they have because of this relationship. It is vital that all workers ensure they do not, even unknowingly, use their position of power and authority inappropriately. They should always maintain professional boundaries and avoid behaviour which could be misinterpreted.

As of April 2022, it is illegal (England and Wales) (Northern Ireland) for those in Positions of Trust in a faith setting to engage in sexual activity with a 16- or 17-year-old under their care or supervision.

The following Safeguarding Policy and Statement aims, not only to meet the requirements of ensuring a safe environment for those accessing activities in our organisation, but to form a culture of openness where:

- Leaders lead by example and champion best practice
- Everyone is committed to the safeguarding of any and all people in our community
- Our volunteers and workers are recruited safely, trained and equipped with all due diligence for their role
- We operate with honesty, integrity and accountability in all we do
- We are committed to ensuring our codes of conduct are understood and enacted
- The vision & values of the organisation are displayed in its day-to-day actions, activities and behaviours of its people
- Communication is open, honest and honouring
- We are committed to learning, adapting and conducting regular reviews of best practice

To safeguard those in our places of worship and organisations we adhere to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and have as our starting point as a definition of abuse, Article 19:

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment, and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.

Also, for adults the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights with particular reference to Article 5:

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Safer recruitment

The Leadership of King's Church Kendal will ensure all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with government guidance on safe recruitment. This includes ensuring that:

- There is a written job description / person specification for the post
- Those applying have completed an application form
- Those short listed have been interviewed
- Safeguarding has been discussed at interview
- Written references have been obtained, and followed up where appropriate
- A self-declaration form and disclosure and barring check (DBS) has been completed where necessary (we will comply with Code of Practice requirements concerning the fair treatment of applicants and the handling of information)
- Qualifications where relevant have been verified
- A suitable training programme is provided for the successful applicant
- The applicant has completed a probationary period
- The applicant has been given a copy of the organisation's safeguarding policy and knows how to report concerns.

Safeguarding training

The Leadership of King's Church Kendal is committed to on-going safeguarding training and development opportunities for all workers, developing a culture of awareness of safeguarding issues to help protect everyone. All our workers will receive induction training and undertake recognised safeguarding training on a regular basis.

The Leadership of King's Church Kendal will also ensure that children and adults with care and support needs are provided with information on where to get help and advice in relation to abuse, discrimination, bullying or any other matter where they have a concern.

Practice Guidelines

As an organisation, King's Church Kendal, working with children, young people and adults with care and support needs we wish to operate and promote good working practice. This will enable workers to run activities safely, develop good relationships, and minimise the risk of a false or unfounded accusation.

We have specific good practice guidelines for the activities we are involved in. Our activities and residentials will be risk assessed and relevant consent forms will be issued.

Responding to allegations of abuse

Under no circumstances should a volunteer or worker carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse. Follow procedures as below:

- Documenting a concern

The worker or volunteer should make a report of the concern in the following way:

- The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse should report concerns as soon as possible to:

Name: Beth Campbell (hereafter the "Safeguarding Co-ordinator")

Tel: 07702 902268

Email: beth@kingschurchkendal.net

The above is nominated by the Leadership of King's Church Kendal to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.

- In the absence of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator or, if the suspicions in any way involve the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, then the report should be made to:

Name: Mrs Diane Reddin (hereafter the "Deputy")

Tel: 07721041462

Email: dianereddin@yahoo.co.uk

If the suspicions implicate both the Safeguarding Co-ordinator and the Deputy, then the report should be made in the first instance to:

thirtyone:eight PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ.

Tel: 0303 003 1111. Option 2

Alternatively contact Social Services or the police.

- The Safeguarding Co-ordinator should contact the appropriate agency or they may first ring the thirtyone:eight helpline for advice. They should then contact social services in the area the child or adult lives.

Westmorland & Furness Multi Agency Children's Hub

Website: <https://wfscp.org.uk/>

Telephone: 0300 373 2724

Adult Social Services, Westmorland & Furness Council

Website: www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 373 3301 **Out of hours:** 01539 768700

The Safeguarding Co-ordinator may need to inform others depending on the circumstances and/or nature of the concern:

- Elder or trustee responsible for safeguarding who may need to liaise with the insurance company or the charity commission to report a serious incident.
- Designated officer or LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) if the allegation concerns a worker or volunteer working with someone under 18.
- Suspensions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place.
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, the absence of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator or Deputy should not delay referral to Social Services, the Police or taking advice from Thirtyone:eight.
- The Leadership will support the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy in their role and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need-to-know basis.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the safeguarding agencies or seek advice from Thirtyone:eight, although the Leadership hope that members of King's Church Kendal will use this procedure. If, however, the

individual with the concern feels that the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator as to the appropriateness of a referral, they are free to contact an outside agency directly. We hope by making this statement that the Leadership demonstrates its commitment to effective safeguarding and the protection of all those who are vulnerable.

The role of the safeguarding co-ordinator/ deputy is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to statutory agencies who have a legal duty to investigate.

Detailed procedures where there is a concern about a child:

If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or where there are concerns about emotional abuse, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will:

- Contact Children's Services (or Thirtyone:eight) for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
- Not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so, having contacted Children's Social Services.
- Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
- For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carers to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of significant harm.
- Where the parent/carers is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Children's Social Services directly for advice.
- Seek and follow advice given by Thirtyone:eight (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Children's Social Services.

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will:

- Contact the Children's Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or Police Child Protection Team directly. They will NOT speak to the parent/carers or anyone else.
- Seek and follow the advice given by Thirtyone:eight if for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Children's Services/Police. Thirtyone:eight will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

**Detailed procedures where there is a concern that an adult needs protection:
Suspensions or allegations of abuse or harm including; physical, sexual, mental,
organisational, financial, discriminatory, neglect, self-neglect, forced marriage, modern
slavery, domestic abuse.**

If there is concern about any of the above, Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will:

- Contact the Adult Social Care Team who have responsibility under the Care Act 2014 to investigate allegations of abuse. Alternatively Thirtyone:eight can be contacted for advice.
- If the adult is in immediate danger or has sustained a serious injury contact the Emergency Services, informing them of any suspicions.

If there is a concern regarding spiritual abuse, Safeguarding Co-ordinator will:

- Identify support services for the victim i.e., counselling or other pastoral support
- Contact Thirtyone:eight and in discussion with them will consider appropriate action with regards to the scale of the concern.

Allegations of abuse against a person who works with children/young people

If an accusation is made against a worker (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff) whilst following the procedure outlined above, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures will:

- Liaise with Children's Social Services regarding the suspension of the worker
- Make a referral to a designated officer formerly called a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) whose function is to handle all allegations against adults who work with children and young people whether in a paid or voluntary capacity
- Make a referral to Disclosure and Barring Service for consideration of the person being placed on the barred list for working with children or adults with additional care and support needs. This decision should be informed by the LADO if they are involved.

Allegations of abuse against a person who works with adults with care and support needs

The safeguarding co-ordinator will:

- Liaise with Adult Social Services in regards the suspension of the worker
- Make a referral to the DBS following the advice of Adult Social Services

The Care Act places the duty upon Adult Services to investigate situations of harm to adults with care and support needs. This may result in a range of options including action against the person or organisation causing the harm, increasing the support for the carers or no

further action if the 'victim' chooses for no further action and they have the capacity to communicate their decision. However, this is a decision for Adult Services to decide not the church.

Pastoral Care

Supporting those affected by abuse

The Leadership is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to all those who have been affected by abuse who have contact with or are part of the place of worship/organisation.

Working with offenders and those who may pose a risk

When someone attending King's Church Kendal is known to have abused children, is under investigation, or is known to be a risk to adults with care and support needs; the Leadership will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care, but in its safeguarding commitment to the protection of children and adults with care and support needs, set boundaries for that person, which they will be expected to keep. These boundaries will be based on a risk assessment and through consultation with appropriate parties.

Adoption of the policy

This policy was agreed by the Trustees of King's Church Kendal and will be reviewed annually in: April 2026

Signed by:

Position:

Signed by:

Position

Date: