

# SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT



This safeguarding statement was approved by the Trustees on 13th February 2025.

At Hope Church Sittingbourne, we are deeply committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of children and adults with care and support needs. We recognise the inherent worth and dignity of every individual, made in the image of God, and we strive to foster an environment where everyone is protected and valued.

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and we believe it is the duty of every member of our church community to play an active role in promoting safety and preventing harm. We are fully committed to adhering to all relevant UK safeguarding legislation, including the *Children Act 1989*, *Care Act 2014*, and statutory guidance such as *Working Together to Safeguard Children*.

We acknowledge the reality of abuse in its various forms, including physical, sexual, emotional harm, neglect, and exploitation. We are dedicated to responding appropriately to any concerns, disclosures, or incidents, and we will take all necessary steps to protect vulnerable individuals and report suspected abuse to the proper authorities.

## Our Commitments

To uphold these values, we commit to the following actions:

- **Policy and Procedures:** Ensure that all staff and volunteers adhere to our safeguarding policy and code of conduct, which reflect the latest guidance and legal requirements.
- **Recruitment and Screening:** Implement robust recruitment practices, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks at the appropriate level for all roles involving children or adults with care and support needs.
- **Training and Awareness:** Provide comprehensive safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers at the start of their role and on a regular basis thereafter, equipping them to recognise and respond to concerns effectively.
- **Monitoring and Improvement:** Stay informed about changes to safeguarding legislation and best practices, reviewing and updating our safeguarding policy annually to ensure ongoing compliance.
- **Pastoral Support:** Provide pastoral support to those affected by abuse, ensuring confidentiality and connecting them with external organisations where needed.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Respond promptly and appropriately to safeguarding concerns, working in partnership with local authorities when required.

## Reporting Concerns

If you have concerns about the safety or well-being of a child or adult, please contact our Safeguarding Coordinator:

Safeguarding Coordinator      Jite Idowu  
Email                                      [jite@hopesittingbourne.org](mailto:jite@hopesittingbourne.org)

For concerns outside the church or for independent advice, you can contact our safeguarding advisors **thirtyone:eight** at **0303 003 1111**.

## Access to full safeguarding policy

A full copy of Hope Church Sittingbourne's safeguarding policy is available upon request. Please email [info@hopesittingbourne.org](mailto:info@hopesittingbourne.org) to obtain a copy.