

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT**

Protection of children and adults with/without care and support needs

The following statement was agreed by the Strategy Team and the Trustees on 28/03/2022 and reviewed on 15/08/2023.

- Grace Church Nottingham in all its ministries is committed to providing a safe and trusted environment for everyone who comes into contact with the church, including children and adults with care and support needs, and ensuring their well-being.
- We prioritise safeguarding, recognising that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial, and discriminatory abuse and neglect of children and adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of both children and adults with care and support needs and will ensure that all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all children and adults with care and support needs should enjoy appropriate access to the life and ministries of Grace Church Nottingham where safe to do so.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.
- We recognise that spiritual abuse is a form of emotional and psychological abuse. It is characterised by a systematic pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour in a religious context and can have a deeply damaging impact on those who experience it. We are committed to safeguarding all people in Grace Church from spiritual abuse through implementing appropriate policies and training along with structuring leadership to create a safer, healthier culture.
- We believe everyone should be valued and feel safe. We want to make sure that all children and adults with care and support needs involved in the life of Grace Church Nottingham know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.

We are committed to:

- Following statutory guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs.
- Requiring all staff and volunteers at Grace Church Nottingham to embrace and abide by the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Implementing the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and all other relevant legislation

- Supporting, resourcing, and training those who undertake this work.
- Ensuring that we are keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding by working in partnership with Thirtyone:eight, our independent safeguarding advisors.
- Supporting all those involved in the life of Grace Church Nottingham affected by abuse.

We recognise that:


- Children's Social Care Services has the lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care Services has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult with care and support needs.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed, the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will review this statement and our policy annually. If you have any concerns for a child or an adult with care and support needs speak to one of the ministry pastors or the Safeguarding Coordinator identified on information available at Grace Church Nottingham.


**Ben Topliss**  
Senior Pastor

Signed:   
Signed: [Ben Topliss \(Sep 6, 2023 08:40 GMT+1\)](#)  
Dated: Sep 6, 2023


**Jeremy Walker**  
Safeguarding Trustee

Signed:   
Signed: [Jeremy Walker \(Sep 6, 2023 08:54 GMT+1\)](#)  
Dated: Sep 6, 2023


**Tim Bunker**  
Adult Safeguarding Lead

Signed:   
Signed: [Tim Bunker \(Aug 16, 2023 09:35 GMT+1\)](#)  
Dated: Aug 16, 2023

**Ashley Dukart**  
Youth Safeguarding Lead

Signed:   
Signed: [Ashley Dukart \(Sep 5, 2023 14:34 GMT+1\)](#)  
Dated: Sep 5, 2023

**Claudia Little**  
Child Safeguarding Lead

Signed:   
Signed: .....  
Dated: Sep 5, 2023

A copy of the safeguarding policy, including the Spiritual Abuse policy, can be made available by emailing our Safeguarding Coordinator, at the following email address: [safeguarding@gracechurchnottingham.org](mailto:safeguarding@gracechurchnottingham.org)