

Child protection policy statement

Hope Church Harrogate (hereafter referred to as 'Hope') believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to practice that protects them.

We recognise that:

the welfare of the child/young person is paramount;

- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy is to provide:

- protection for the children and young people who receive services provided by Hope;
- staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of harm.

This policy applies to all staff, including church leaders and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of Hope.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them;
- adopting child protection procedures and good practice guidelines for staff and volunteers;
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made;
- sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents/carers, staff and volunteers;
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know; and involving parents/carers and children appropriately;
- providing effective management of staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

We are also committed to reviewing our policy, procedures and good practice annually.

Policy last reviewed November 2017