

Waypoint Church – Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Effective Date: 07/08/2026

Who We Are

Waypoint Church is a Christian church based in Hull, serving Boothferry Estate.

Our heart is to help people find and follow Jesus and to create spaces where people can connect, feel welcome, and be part of a community.

If you have any questions about this policy please contact us at:
info@waypointchurch.co.uk

Policy Statement

Waypoint Church is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. We believe that every child has the right to be safe, valued, and protected from harm, regardless of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, trustees, contractors, and anyone working on behalf of Waypoint Church.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff and volunteers have a duty to promote the welfare of children and young people, recognise concerns, respond appropriately, and report safeguarding concerns without delay.

Definition of a Child

For the purposes of this policy, a child is anyone under the age of 18.

Our Commitment

We will:

- Provide a safe and welcoming environment for children and young people
- Act in the best interests of the child at all times
- Take all allegations and concerns seriously and respond appropriately
- Work in partnership with parents, carers, and statutory agencies
- Ensure safer recruitment, induction, and ongoing training for all staff and volunteers
- Listen to and take seriously the views, wishes, and feelings of children and young people
- Create an environment where children and young people feel safe to speak and be heard

Recognising Abuse

Physical Abuse

Unexplained injuries, frequent bruising, burns, fear of physical contact, or wearing clothing to cover injuries.

Emotional Abuse

Withdrawal, low self-esteem, extreme behaviour, fearfulness, or being overly anxious to please.

Sexual Abuse

Age-inappropriate sexual behaviour or language, reluctance to be with certain people, sudden changes in behaviour, or distress around physical contact.

Neglect

Poor hygiene, hunger, unsuitable clothing, constant tiredness, or lack of supervision.

Child Exploitation

Children and young people may be exploited criminally, sexually, financially, or online. Indicators may include unexplained gifts, secrecy, changes in behaviour, missing episodes, or concerning online activity.

Spiritual Abuse

Misuse of religious language or authority to control or manipulate, fear of punishment from God, isolation from family or friends, or being told they are not loved by God unless they behave in a certain way.

Responding to Concerns or Disclosures

If a child or young person shares information that raises a safeguarding concern, all staff and volunteers must respond appropriately and follow the procedures set out in the Waypoint Church Safeguarding Procedures Document.

For detailed guidance on responding to disclosures, recording concerns, completing Safeguarding Concern Forms, reporting concerns, and emergency safeguarding procedures, please refer to the Waypoint Church Safeguarding Procedures Document.

Reporting Concerns

If a child or young person is believed to be at immediate risk of harm, emergency services should be contacted immediately by calling 999 and the Designated Safeguarding Lead informed as soon as possible.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Dan Kelsey

Email - dankelsey@waypointchurch.co.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Debbie Kelsey

Email - debbiekelsey@waypointchurch.co.uk

Waypoint Church takes all safeguarding concerns seriously. Any concern, disclosure, allegation, or suspicion of abuse must be reported promptly and appropriately.

All staff and volunteers are expected to follow the reporting procedures outlined in the Waypoint Church Reporting Concerns Procedure.

Advice and support may also be sought from Thirtyone:eight. Their Safeguarding Helpline can be contacted on 0303 003 1111.

Waypoint Church maintains a Reporting Concerns Procedure which provides detailed guidance on responding to disclosures, recording concerns, completing Safeguarding Concern Forms, confidentiality, information sharing, and reporting safeguarding concerns.

All staff and volunteers are provided with access to this document. If you would like to request a copy or find out more about how safeguarding concerns are reported and managed within Waypoint Church, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead at dankelsey@waypointchurch.co.uk.

What Happens When a Concern Is Reported

When a safeguarding concern is reported, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the information provided and determine any appropriate action.

This may include:

- Seeking further information where appropriate
- Consulting with Thirtyone:eight
- Recording the concern securely
- Referring the concern to statutory agencies where required
- Implementing safeguarding measures to protect the child or young

person

Waypoint Church will always seek to act in the best interests of the child and in accordance with safeguarding legislation, guidance, and best practice.

Safer Recruitment

Waypoint Church is committed to safer recruitment practices. All staff and volunteers working with children and young people will be recruited, appointed, trained, and supported in accordance with safeguarding requirements appropriate to their role. This may include application forms, interviews, references, safeguarding training, and DBS checks where required.

Safer Working Practice

All staff and volunteers must:

- Treat all children with respect and dignity
- Avoid being alone with a child where possible
- Maintain appropriate boundaries at all times
- Use appropriate language and behaviour
- Follow agreed procedures for activities, transport, and online communication

Staff Identification and Badges

All staff, volunteers, and visitors must wear the appropriate Waypoint Church lanyard and identification badge at all times while serving or visiting areas where safeguarding responsibilities apply.

Our identification system helps children, young people, adults at risk, parents, carers, visitors, and other members of the public recognise who is serving and what safeguarding checks have been completed. The colour of the lanyard provides a clear visual indication of an individual's

safeguarding status within Waypoint Church.

Black Lanyard

A black lanyard indicates that the individual has successfully completed Waypoint Church's safer recruitment process for their role. This includes a satisfactory DBS check, safeguarding training, and any other role-specific safeguarding requirements.

Red Lanyard

A red lanyard indicates that the individual has not yet completed the full safer recruitment process. This may include:

- A visitor to Waypoint Church.
- A volunteer or member of staff whose DBS application is currently being processed.
- Someone serving in a role that does not require a DBS check.

Individuals wearing a red lanyard must not undertake duties that require a completed DBS check unless they are appropriately supervised and authorised in line with Waypoint Church's safeguarding procedures.

Staff Identification

Staff members will wear an official Waypoint Church identification badge displaying:

- Name
- Photograph
- Staff role

Volunteer Identification

Volunteers will wear a Waypoint Church identification badge clearly marked Volunteer.

Visitor Identification

Visitors will wear a Waypoint Church identification badge clearly marked Visitor together with a red lanyard to indicate that they are not part of the serving team.

Staff

If you notice someone in areas where under-18s or adults at risk are present who is not wearing a badge, or who is not normally part of the team, speak to them or inform a Team Leader immediately.

Volunteers

If you notice someone in areas where under-18s or adults at risk are present who is not wearing a badge, or who is not normally part of the team, report this to your Team Leader immediately.

Responsibility

If you notice anyone serving or accessing areas where safeguarding responsibilities apply without the appropriate identification, or wearing a red lanyard while carrying out duties they should not be undertaking, report this immediately to a Team Leader or the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Online Safety

We are committed to keeping children safe online by:

- Using consent forms for media and online activity
- Ensuring appropriate supervision during online sessions
- Following clear guidelines for digital communication
- Using approved church communication channels where possible
- Not following anyone under the age of 18 on personal social media accounts
- Not responding to private messages or friend requests from children or young people under 18 on personal social media accounts
- Photographs and videos of children and young people will only be taken, stored, and used in accordance with parental consent and church procedures

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Safeguarding information is highly sensitive and must be handled appropriately. Information will only be shared where necessary to protect children, young people, and in line with safeguarding legislation and guidance.

Further information regarding confidentiality, information sharing, and safeguarding records can be found in the Waypoint Church Safeguarding Procedures Document.

Training

All staff and volunteers working with children will receive:

- Safeguarding training appropriate to their role
- Regular updates and refreshers
- Clear guidance on this policy and safeguarding procedures

Working Under Thirtyone:eight

Waypoint Church is a member of Thirtyone:eight and works in line with their safeguarding guidance, training, and best practice. Our safeguarding policies, procedures, and child protection processes are informed by the standards and resources provided by Thirtyone:eight.

Related Safeguarding Documents

This policy should be read alongside the following safeguarding documents:

- Reporting Concerns Procedure
- Safeguarding Adults Policy
- Safeguarding Policy for Individuals with Additional Needs and Disabilities
- Any other safeguarding-related policies adopted by Waypoint Church

Policy Review

This policy is approved by the Waypoint Church Core Team and will be reviewed annually or sooner if required by changes in legislation, safeguarding guidance, or church activities.

Policy Owner: Waypoint Church

Date Approved: 07/08/2026

Next Review Date: 07/08/2027

Last Updated: 07/08/2026