

# Woolwich Evangelical Church

## Child Safeguarding & Protection Policy & Code of Practice

Last modified 4/6/24

### Rules for all Involved in Children's Work

*And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth Me (Matthew 18,5)*

### General Discipline and Child Safeguarding Aims

With good numbers of children being collected and brought to our church on Sundays behavioral problems are likely to arise. Many problems can be avoided if staff are well prepared and vigilant. Often being watchful and ready to avert potentially difficult situations will prove that 'prevention is better than cure.' Child safeguarding is the responsibility of each member of the church.

These rules have the following aims:

- The welfare and protection of the children at all times.
- The maintenance of respect for our church and the Lord's work in the eyes of parents and children.
- The consistent presentation of a good example of Christian behaviour to the young.
- The prompt dealing with bad behaviour so that the atmosphere is not spoiled for other children.
- The improvement in the behaviour of children with problems by the patience and concern of staff.
- The safe return home of all children in this often unsafe community.
- The prevention of different and uncoordinated courses of action being taken by different members of staff.

### Discipline Guidelines

1. Speak firmly but without ill-temper and shouting, to a misbehaving child. Make it clear that certain behaviour is unacceptable on our vehicles and in the building.
2. It may be necessary to part two fighting children, or to direct those causing trouble with a firm hand to the vehicle or place they are supposed to be. In no circumstances should any member of staff strike a child, no matter how gently as this constitutes criminal assault.
3. All incidences not witnessed by most of the staff should be quickly and fully shared with the leadership.
4. Be careful to co-operate with any plan of action decided on to deal with a problem.

### Child Safeguarding

1. In order to protect the children and the workers from potential problems, staff should avoid being alone with a child in a place where they cannot be seen.
2. If staff do find themselves alone with a child they must avoid all physical contact.

3. Staff should avoid giving lifts in cars to just one child. If unavoidable then the child should sit in the back of the car.
4. All children must be taken home except where it is known from the family that they may return unaccompanied.
5. All the staff who have direct contact with or care for children will have cleared a DBS check for past cautions/convictions.
6. Social media contacts with children are best mediated through their parents only and if direct contact is ever necessary must be limited to communicating about transport and meetings, not for personal discussion or sharing images.

### **Child protection**

1. If you suspect that a child is suffering from the effects of physical injury or sexual abuse, **do not** question the child or speak to the parent. Make sure that the leadership of the church is fully and quickly acquainted with your suspicions in writing, giving details. If you consider a child is suffering from emotional abuse or neglect, express these concerns in writing and alert the church leadership promptly.
2. If you have reason to believe that another worker is having an inadvisable level of physical contact with the children, is using inappropriate language or is reacting in an unhelpful way to problems, this must be communicated promptly with the minister or other church officer to be dealt with.

The child protection liaison (at 4/6/24, Charles Soper) will provide training materials and guidance, to keep church workers up to date on current government and ThirtyOne Eight guidance. Courses and online materials are also available through [ThirtyoneEight.org](http://ThirtyoneEight.org), and all are encouraged to make use of these.

Due for review again Spring 2025.