**Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy**

As leaders and members of the church:

* We are committed to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all, especially the young and vulnerable.
* We recognise that the prevention of physical, sexual and emotional abuse is everybody’s responsibility, and commit to report any abuse discovered or suspected.\*
* We undertake to be careful in the selection, appointment, resourcing and oversight of those working with children and young people, including specifically the seeking of Disclosure & Barring (DBS) checks for everyone involved in such work as well as for all members of the church’s leadership team.
* We will provide new families visiting or attending this church with information detailing the arrangements and staffing of our Sunday School.
* We will seek to maintain good relationships with the statutory child care authorities, and to adopt the principles of the Home Office and Baptist Union good practice guidelines.\*\*
* We will review our child protection policy annually and update as appropriate at the church’s AGM.
* We have appointed the following persons from outside of the normal Sunday School activities to provide independent support and advocacy for the children and young people in our care:

**Child Protection Co-ordinator** **Church Secretary**

Mrs Elizabeth Pillings Mrs Jean McPherson

Tel: 01932 267709 Tel: 01932 245178

Any child or young person is invited to speak to either of the above in relation to any matter of concern to them. Adults or carers with questions or concerns about this policy or child protection matters may also contact the above.

Signed ………………………………………….......... Date………………………………

Philip Fellows (Pastor) on behalf of Hersham Baptist Church

\*Such reports should be made and handled in the first instance through those named above or, when this is not possible or appropriate, via another member of the leadership team and/or direct to the civil authorities.

\*\*Home Office Code of Practice *Safe from Harm,* and BUGB guidelines *Safe to Grow.*

March 2017