

# **OAKHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

**The Congregational Federation  
& Thirtyone:eight - Inspection Aligned**

**If you wish to read the full document  
Please ask one of the safeguarding team  
as listed in point 2**

**Last reviewed January 2026**

## **1. Safeguarding Statement**

Oakham Congregational Church is committed to safeguarding children, young people, and adults with care and support needs.

We recognise safeguarding as a core part of our Christian mission and responsibility. We are committed to providing a safe, caring, and inclusive environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

This policy has been developed in accordance with:

- UK safeguarding legislation
- The Equality Act 2010
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The Ten Safeguarding Standards of Thirtyone:eight
- Guidance and expectations of the Congregational Federation (CF)

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone.

## **2. Church Details and Safeguarding Contacts**

Church Name: Oakham Congregational Church

Minister:  
Kevan Wackett

Lead Safeguarding officer:  
Maria Malic

Deputy Safeguarding officer:  
June Sanderson

Tel: 07751030488

Email: [oakhamcongregationalchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:oakhamcongregationalchurch@yahoo.com)

These details are displayed on church premises and made available to members, volunteers, and users of the building.

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### **3. Scope of the Policy**

This policy applies to:

- All children and young people
- All adults with care and support needs
- All church members
- All workers and volunteers
- All activities taking place on church premises
- All external organisations using church premises.

### **4. Church Activities**

Oakham Congregational Church meets for worship on Sunday at 11am and provides informal fellowship for people of all ages and abilities throughout the week.

Activities include:

- Worship and community fellowship
- Church-run groups
- Community groups using church premises

All external organisations using the premises are required to:

- Have their own safeguarding policy
- Meet Thirtyone:eight safeguarding standards
- Hold appropriate insurance

## **5. Leadership and Oversight**

The Minister and Safeguarding officers hold overall responsibility for safeguarding at Oakham Congregational Church.

They commit to:

- Reviewing this policy annually
- Ensuring safeguarding is embedded in church life
- Supporting the Safeguarding Lead in their role
- Responding appropriately to safeguarding concerns

## **6. Safer Recruitment (Thirtyone:eight Standard 2)**

Oakham Congregational Church follows safer recruitment practices for all workers and volunteers, including:

- Clear role descriptions
- Application and interview processes
- References where required
- DBS checks where appropriate
- Safeguarding training and induction
- Ongoing support and supervision

No one is permitted to begin regulated activity without appropriate checks.

## **7. Training and Awareness (Standard 3)**

All workers and volunteers:

- Receive safeguarding induction
- Are provided with this safeguarding policy and Code of Conduct
- Undertake safeguarding training appropriate to their role

Safeguarding information is made accessible to children, adults with care and support needs, and their carers.

## **8. Codes of Conduct (Standard 4)**

All workers and volunteers are required to follow a written Code of Conduct which:

- Sets clear behavioural expectations
- Defines appropriate boundaries
- Explains unacceptable behaviour
- Outlines consequences of breaches

## **9. Responding to Safeguarding Concerns (Standard 5)**

All safeguarding concerns must be:

- Taken seriously
- Recorded promptly
- Reported without delay

Safeguarding Lead: Maria Malic

email: [oakhamcongregationalchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:oakhamcongregationalchurch@yahoo.com)

If the concern involves the Safeguarding Lead, or they are unavailable, the Deputy Safeguarding Contact must be informed.

No worker or volunteer will attempt to investigate concerns themselves.

## **10. Working with Statutory Agencies (Standard 6)**

Oakham Congregational Church will work in partnership with statutory agencies and safeguarding professionals.

Advice and support may be sought from:

- Local Children's Social Services
- Adult Social Services
- The Police (in an emergency)
- Thirtyone:eight Safeguarding Helpline: 0303 003 1111

Referrals will be made promptly where required.

## **11. Managing Allegations Against Workers (Standard 7)**

Allegations against workers or volunteers will be managed in line with:

- Local Authority procedures
- LADO guidance (where applicable)
- DBS referral requirements

This may include temporary suspension while investigations take place.

## **12. Pastoral Care and Support (Standard 8)**

Oakham Congregational Church is committed to offering appropriate pastoral care and support to those affected by abuse.

Support will be provided in a way that:

- Prioritises safety
- Respects confidentiality
- Works alongside statutory agencies

### **13. Managing Risk and Premises Safety (Standards 9 & 10)**

The church undertakes regular reviews of:

- Premises safety
- Risk assessments
- Fire safety and first aid provision

Safeguarding arrangements are reviewed as part of the Congregational Federation safeguarding check process.

**This safeguarding policy is approved by the Minister and leadership team of Oakham Congregational Church and is reviewed on annual basis.**