



# Keiraview Health and Safety Policy Statement

Definitions: The church can be a place of work as well as worship, and so can have a special significance beyond that of a 'workplace'. While we recognise the legislation specifically relates to *work*, health and safety we have used 'health and safety' throughout our documentation to ensure it is relevant to everyone.

## Why

The way we care for each other is a way we can express God's love. Whenever people connect with us, we want them to feel safe. Because health and safety is so important, the church council and other leaders also have some legal obligations.

The church is called to love everyone, but God has a special concern for the poor, the marginalised and the oppressed. Safeguarding the health and safety of children and vulnerable adults is therefore also central to our health and safety commitments.

## Who

Everyone has a responsibility to protect their own safety and that of others, as far as possible.

This policy statement applies to all people (paid or volunteer) engaged to perform work for or on behalf of Keiraview Uniting Church. Keiraview also demonstrates care for others who connect with us in our facilities (such as visitors), by providing a safe environment.

We also commit to safeguarding the health and safety of children and vulnerable adults we connect with through our congregation.

## How

Keiraview Uniting Church is committed to planning for and addressing hazards and risks that that might be harmful to our physical and psychological health and safety. We are committed to:

- Demonstrating our values by collaborating and consulting with staff, volunteers and contractors when making decisions about matters that impact their health and safety
- Listening to and acting on health and safety issues that are raised in our congregation. This includes concerns raised by children, and actively engaging and empowering young people to help ensure they are safe and protected
- Adopting a proactive risk management approach to ensure hazards and risks are identified and controlled
- Providing appropriate training, instruction and supervision for anyone doing paid or volunteer work
- Planning for emergencies and responding effectively to manage incidents and injuries
- Documenting our health and safety arrangements. This helps demonstrate we have an effective health and safety management system. It also helps everyone understand what will be done to keep them safe.

This document should be read in conjunction with our safe church commitments and documentation. This policy should also be read in conjunction with our health and safety information.

