

Woodlands Presbyterian Church Safeguarding Statement

Kirk session

It is an honour and privilege to protect and safeguard to the best of our ability, all the children, young people and adults who attend Woodlands Presbyterian Church and to promote, with confidence, that it is a safe place for all. We will proactively work to prevent harm from occurring and have adopted a zero-tolerance approach towards abuse, exploitation and neglect. While safeguarding in Woodlands is the overall responsibility of the Kirk Session, we believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Our belief

The Kirk Session believes that the Bible is God's inspired word which provides a reference to instruction and guidance on how to safeguard others – not just because of a legal and ethical duty, but because it is the heart of our Father and therefore our ministry, to love our neighbour and to seek justice and protection for those in need.

Our Commitment to making Woodlands Presbyterian Church a Safe Place

As a church family, we recognise 'Safeguarding' to be an integral part of the life and witness of our church fellowship that is shaped by the love and compassion of Christ. We will seek to make Woodlands a place where people have a voice, and as such are listened to, taken seriously, and kept safe in all church activities, whether on-site, off-site or visiting adults in their own home. We will take all concerns seriously and respond promptly, working in partnership with statutory agencies where appropriate.

Our Leaders, Organisations and Codes of Conduct

The Kirk Session will actively promote and integrate a safeguarding culture within each church organisation and ministry and will ensure appropriate structures are in place to prevent harm from occurring such as safe recruitment practices, risk assessments, policies, clear procedures, and codes of behaviour, and will ensure these are accessible to all and are reviewed every 2 years. There will be a designated 'Safeguarding' Elder as an integral part of the Kirk Session to present safeguarding business at every Kirk Session meeting.

Our commitment to Training

Our Minister, Elders, Designated Persons and all of our appointed leaders will attend mandatory 'Safeguarding' training on a 3-yearly basis and will ensure that no one will commence their role until basic training is completed, to ensure effective safeguarding practices are upheld.

Our Designated Persons and Safeguarding Champion (Team)

The Woodlands Designated Person/s and Adult Safeguarding Champion functions are combined into one role. This role, together with the Minister, Clerk of Session and Designated Safeguarding Elder form our Safeguarding team who will endeavour to ensure that best practices are adhered to. Please speak to us if you are unclear about any part of this statement or accompanying policies or procedures or if you have a concern relating to Safeguarding.

Our full church safeguarding policy and associated PCI safeguarding procedures are available on our church website @ www.woodlandschurch.co.uk.

Date: 24:06:2026 Review Date:24:06:2028 Signed:



Rev David Kelly
(Minister)



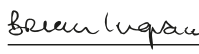
Lillian McClelland
(Designated Person &
Adult Safeguarding Champion)



Julie Entwistle
(Deputy Designated Person &
Adult Safeguarding Champion)



Ian Drysdale
(Clerk of Session)



Brian Ingram
(Safeguarding Elder)