

## **Hope Church Luton Online Safe-guarding Guidance**

Leaders this document supports our Safe-guarding policy, as more online sessions take place in this season. We need to protect the vulnerable adults and leaders as we engage with together online.

### **The purpose of this guidance is to:**

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults
- ensure that, as a church, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

This guidance applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in Hope Church Luton activities.

### **Provision of online sessions during Covid**

It's best practice to have at least two adults on team present when engaging with vulnerable adults online.

### **Safe-guarding concerns**

As per our safe-guarding policy, leaders need to be able to identify any concerns and take appropriate action.

For example, concerns may arise when:

- a leader sees or hears something worrying during an online lesson
- a vulnerable adult discloses abuse during a phone call or online session.

Remember to follow the Hope Church safeguarding policy and procedures. Make sure you know how to recognise and respond to the signs of abuse.

### **Zoom Safety**

- Ensure that advice is given to only download Zoom directly from the company's own website to avoid potential scams.
- Use the 'waiting room' feature to better control access to the meeting.
- Disable participant screen sharing when working with children.
- Do not record meetings unless absolutely necessary and with consent from all involved.

- Know how to expel a participant quickly and place a call 'on-hold' in the event of an incident or concern.

**This policy should be read alongside Hope Church's policies and procedures, including, Safeguarding children, vulnerable Adult and Using images of Children and Young People**

### **Harmful or upsetting content**

Get support by:

- reporting harmful online content to the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- getting government advice and trusted resources from [Educate Against Hate](#) on safeguarding from radicalisation, building resilience to extremism, and promoting shared values

Teaching a session from home is different from teaching in the church building. Leaders should try to find a quiet or private area to talk to those in the session.

**When broadcasting a session or making a recording, consider what will be in the background.**