



Safeguarding Policy Statement Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

1. Work amongst children, young people and adults at risk¹ should be based upon a guiding philosophy, which is evangelical, Bible based and in keeping with the mission of the Church as described in the Purpose Statement and the Declaration of Faith (Appendix IV). As Christians we are commanded to treat everyone sensitively and with respect, to love one another with brotherly affection and to do to others as we would have them do to us. We should therefore, look to apply the principles of this policy and accompanying Codes of Practice, to **all** our relationships.
2. The work should lead children, young people and adults at risk to feel accepted, for they are part of our Church today. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them and respect their wishes and feelings.
3. As a Church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all and we recognise that the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk, is the responsibility of the whole church.
4. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse of children, young people, and adults at risk and to report any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected by following the agreed procedures (Appendix I). These procedures will be publicly displayed in each room where activities involving children, young people or adults at risk regularly take place. The church will fully cooperate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.
5. As a Church, we are committed to caring for those who have experienced abuse, whether recently or in the past, and refer to the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) **Supporting Those who have Experienced Abuse** guide, to ensure that we adhere to a model of best practice.
6. We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, young people or adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary, including completion of application forms (Appendix II) interview and appropriate references (Appendix III). At the discretion of the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) and with approval from the Deacons, these requirements may be waived where the applicant is already a Church Member **and** has been **in regular** attendance at the Church for more than 3 years. All appointments will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Those elected as Deacons will also be required to have an enhanced DBS check due to their pastoral role. All DBS checks will be regularly updated in line with Baptist Union recommendations.
7. The overall leaders of each group will be Church Members and regular leaders and helpers will be in regular fellowship with the Church. They will have agreed to the Declaration of Faith (Appendix IV). At the discretion of the group leader, after consultation with the Minister and DPS, there may be people who help at the group who are not in regular fellowship nor feel able to sign Appendix IV. These people will amend it in writing to state: 'I agree to work within the Christian ethos and guidelines of this statement with the help and supervision of the group leader'.
8. We are committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children, young people and adults at risk, and to providing supervision.
9. Each person working with children, young people or adults at risk will be given a copy of this Safeguarding Policy Statement and the relevant Code of Practice Guidelines, when appointed. They will be asked to acknowledge in writing or by email, that they have read, understood and agree to implement them. They should re-read them regularly. The Policy Statement and Codes of Practice will also be available on the Church website or as hard copies for those who request them. Church Members will be reminded to re-read them, annually at the AGM.
10. At least every three years, we will review this Policy Statement and the Codes of Practice Guidelines, drawing on advice from Government and denominational documents such as the BUGB Safeguarding guides and model policies. In addition, the implementation of the Policy will be reviewed annually and reported on at the AGM.
11. As part of our commitment to children, young people and adults at risk we have appointed a DPS. In addition, there is a 'named contact' for adults at risk and each organisation for children and young people within the Church

1. Definitions

In this document children/young people refers to those up to the age of 18 years and 'Adult at Risk' means any adult over the age of 18 who due to disability, intellectual/mental function, age, illness or traumatic circumstances may not be able to take care or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation. Some adults might be more at risk than others, and there are some times in life where risks may increase. Adults at risk may or may not have the mental capacity to make decisions about their own well-being. QBC will be guided by The Baptist Union Booklet, 'Safe to Belong' regarding this issue.

has a 'named contact'. The 'named contacts' are responsible for regularly explaining their role and that of the DPS to adults at risk and young people (or their parents in the case of younger children) -. Their names and phone numbers will be publicly displayed alongside the reporting procedures (described in Clause 4).

12. Basic information about church workers, records of activities such as group registers, contact and medical information and other safeguarding records such as DBS checks and incident reports, will be kept and securely stored according to the requirements of our General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Retention Policy.
13. With these things in mind, the Church commits itself to pray for one another including children, young people and adults at risk.