

Beckenham Baptist Church
Safeguarding Policy
(referred to as “the church” in the Policy Statement)

The vision of the church is:

Children, young people and adults at risk are part of the church today and as such we recognise that they will have much to give as well as to receive. We commit therefore to listening to them and making sure that their voices and concerns are heard and represented. As we seek to nurture them in the worship, learning and community life of the church, we will respect their views and engage with them.

In fulfilling this vision, the church

- welcomes children, young people and adults at risk into the life of our community
- will endeavour to run activities for children, young people and adults at risk
- will make our premises available to organisations working with children, young people and adults at risk which are in line with the charitable objectives of the church, as set out in the Church Constitution
- will build relationships with the children, young people and adults at risk and their families and carers.

The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender or sexuality, ethnicity or ability.

As the church family we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly.

In pursuit of this we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure their implementation.

Prevention and reporting of abuse

It is the duty of each church member and each member of the wider church family to prevent the abuse of children, young people and adults at risk and to respond to concerns about the well being of children, young people and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures which are available on request from the safeguarding team. The church will cooperate fully with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, young people and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children, young people and adults at risk.

Respecting children, young people and adults at risk

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children, young people and adults at risk so that all children, young people and adults at risk are shown the respect that is due to them and are protected from harm.

Safe working practices

The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children, young people and adults at risk, adopting ways of working with them that promote their safety and well being and protect them from harm.

A safe community

The church is committed to the prevention of all types of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children, young people and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

Safeguarding contact points within our church

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team:

JILL JONES - Safeguarding Trustee

She will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the Trustees and in conjunction with the safeguarding team. She will advise the church on any matters relating to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Phone No: 07774860527 Email address: jilly1941@gmail.com

SUE SHORT – Designated Person for Safeguarding

She will assist the Safeguarding Trustee in helping the church on any matters relating to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Phone No: 020 8402 1689 Email address: the.shorts97@ntlworld.com

Our church minister is also an important part of the church safeguarding team. Where possible, the church safeguarding team will work together if and when issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboard in the church vestibule, as well as on the church website.
- Each worker with children, young people and/or adults at risk will be given a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually by the safeguarding team and any necessary revisions, as advised by the Baptist Union, will be adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.

- The policy will be read annually at the church AGM with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

Signed

Minister

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

For the purpose of this policy the term 'child' refers to anyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding is the protection of adults and children from harm, abuse or neglect.

There is no single standard definition for an adult at risk, so for our policy we are using the following simple definition taken from CCPAS (Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service): *'Any adult aged 18 or over who, due to disability, 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'*.