

Safeguarding Children (0-18s) & Adults At Risk in the Church

Christchurch Baptist Church has a programme of activities with children (0-18s) and welcomes adults at risk into the life of the community.

The church recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding of all children (regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability) and we also recognise our responsibility to safeguard adults at risk.

As Members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all people associated with the church, especially children and adults at risk, and will pray for them regularly.

We recognise that our work with children and adults at risk is the responsibility of the whole church. It is the responsibility of each member of the wider church family to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and to respond to any concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected must be reported, and the church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation regarding any suspected abuse linked to the church.

We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and adults at risk, whether paid or volunteer. The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training all those who work in this area and to providing appropriate levels of supervision.

We will ensure that all workers are given a copy of the church's agreed procedures and Good Practice Guidelines and undertake to observe them. We are committed to providing a safe environment for activities and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

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

Responsible People

Christchurch Baptist Church has appointed **Pat Adams and Laurence Bennett** as the Safeguarding Trustees and Designated Persons For Safeguarding to oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees; to advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk; to take appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

The church has appointed **Sue Lane** to be the Advocate for Children (0-18s). Her role will be regularly explained to children, and her photo/contact details publicly displayed.

Full details of our Good Practice Guidelines are available on request from the church office.