

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

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

The church recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding all children 0-18s, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability, as set out in *The Children's Act* (1989 and 2004), *Safe from Harm* (HM Government 1994) and *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Government 2010). 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 of children and adults at risk, and to respond to any concerns about their well. 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 with children and adults at risk, and to providing appropriate levels of supervision.

The church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice *Safe from Harm* and adopts the guidelines and procedures published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its publication *Safe to Grow* (revised edition).

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 with children and adults at risk, 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 Safeguarding Trustees to:

- Oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees.

The church has appointed **Sue Lane** to be the Advocate for Children:

- Her role will be regularly explained to children, and her photo/contact details publicly displayed.

Pat Adams has been appointed as the Designated Person for Safeguarding and **Laurence Bennett** as Second Designated Person for Safeguarding to:

- Advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk.
- Take appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

A copy of this policy statement will be displayed permanently on the notice board in foyer.

Full details of the '*Safe To Grow*' procedures we have adopted are available on request from the church office. All Safeguarding policies and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually and agreed at the church AGM.

If you have any specific concerns regarding safeguarding, visit our website

<http://www.christchurchbaptist.org.uk/safeguarding-reporting> to submit a report to our Safeguarding Trustees.