

Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children and Young People

Chesterfield Baptist Church

(referred to as "the church" in the Policy Statement)



Our Vision is to be:

- A growing church
- A church full of people of all ages
- An equipping and sending church

In fulfilling this vision the church:

- Welcomes children and young people into the life of our community.
- Arranges activities specifically for children and young people.

The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all children and young people under the age of 18 (regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability) as set out in The Children Act 1989 and 2004, *Safe from Harm* (HM Government 1994) and *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Government 2010).

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all children and young people associated with the church and will pray for them regularly.

In pursuit of this we commit ourselves to the following policies and to the development of 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 physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children, and the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and young people and to report any child abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully co-operate 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 and young people, whether paid or volunteer. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of children and young people.

Respecting children

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

Safe working practices

The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children and young people and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

A safe community

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

Responsible People

The church has appointed **Laura Brown** as the Safeguarding Deacon (Trustee) to:

- oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's deacons.

The church has appointed **Laura Brown** as Designated Person for Safeguarding and **Marcia Carter** as an additional Designated Person to:

- advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and young people.
- take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Policy and Procedures

A copy of this policy statement will be displayed permanently on the notice boards inside the main upstairs and downstairs entrances, and on the church's website.

Each worker with children and young people will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and will be required to follow them.

A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of the church, the parents or carers of any child or young person associated with the church, or any other person associated with the church.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually.

The policy statement will be read annually at the church's annual general meeting, together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.

Read and agreed at the church meetings on 7th June and 20th September 2017

Signed on behalf of the church:

Blyth Harrison (Secretary)