



BURNHAM ON SEA

BAPTIST CHURCH

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

Adopted: June 2018

Safeguarding Children and Young People in the Church

POLICY STATEMENT

Burnham on sea Baptist Church, College Street, Burnham on Sea, TA8 1AR (The Church)

The vision/purpose of the church is 'to make disciples for Christ'. In fulfilling this vision/purpose, the church:

- has a programme of activities with children and young people
- welcomes children and young people into the life of our community
- makes our premises available to organisations working with 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) [or *Working Together under the Children Act* (Welsh Assembly Government 2006)].

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding 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 young people 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 voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of children.

Respecting children and young people

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 children and young people 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 **David Williams** as the Safeguarding Trustee to:

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

The church has appointed **David Williams** as the Designated Person for Safeguarding 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.

The safeguarding Team consists of **David Williams, Dawn Brown and Rob Howlett**

Policy and procedures

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboard in the **Lower Hall, Upper Hall** and the **Church Office**.

Each worker with children and young people whether paid or voluntary will be given access to 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 from the church or any other person associated with the church.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed at least annually.

The policy statement will be read annually at the church meeting in **June**, together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.

Safeguarding: Adults at risk

Safeguarding is the protection of adults and children from harm, abuse or neglect. The term 'adult at risk' has replaced the previously used 'vulnerable adult', focusing on the situation rather than the characteristics of the adult themselves. The label 'vulnerable adult' may wrongly imply that some of the fault for any abuse lies with the abused adult.

There is no standard single 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.

Some adults might be more at risk than others, and there are sometimes in life where risks may increase. Some of these circumstances may include:

- Learning, sensory or physical disability
- Old age and frailty (especially if it creates a dependency on or needing help from others)
- Mental health problems
- Dementia or confusion
- Illness
- Addiction or dependence on alcohol, drugs or medication
- Bereavement
- Past abuse or trauma
- English is not their first language

We have adopted the Baptist Org Policy as set out in the 'Safe to Belong' document available in the church office and at https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/450987/Safe_to_Belong.aspx