

Safeguarding Policy Statement for Dunchurch Baptist Church

Our vision is for people to experience the love of God and hear his message for them. In fulfilling this vision we:

- welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- run activities for children and adults at risk
- make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk

Our safeguarding responsibilities

The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children (under 18s) and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability. As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping 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 its implementation.

Prevention and reporting of abuse

It is the duty of each church member to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures. 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 adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children and adults at risk.

Respecting children and adults at risk

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

Safe working practices

The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk 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. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children or 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:



Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS): Abbie Robson

The DPS will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.



Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS): Claire Thomas

The DDPS will assist the DPS in helping the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and in taking appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.



Safeguarding Trustee: Sarah Coulon

The trustee responsible for safeguarding will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees.

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

Putting our policy into practice

A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on a church notice board and made available on the church website.

A full copy of the policy and all relevant procedures will be given to leaders of activities for children and adults at risk, and will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.

Each person working with children and/or adults at risk will be given a copy of the Procedure for Prevention and Reporting of Abuse, and those working with children a copy of the Code of Behaviour, and will be required to follow them.

The Policy and procedures will be reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.

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