



# QUEENS ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

## Safeguarding Policy Statement

### Our vision

The vision of Queens Road Baptist Church (“the church”) is described in our Purpose, Vision and Mission Statement.

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, young people 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 we implement our policy well.

- **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 reasonably practicable 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, young people and 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:

#### **JUDITH BRAZIER, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)**

They 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.

#### **JAN FISHER, Safeguarding Trustee**

They will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the charity trustees.

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

Further definitions of these safeguarding roles and responsibilities can be found below.

### **Putting our policy into practice**

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church notice-board, and is available on our church website and in the church office.
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them.
- A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed at least annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.

- The policy statement will be read annually at the church members' meeting, normally in June, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.
- External organisations which are using the church's premises for work with children and/or adults at risk are required to have a safeguarding policy and procedures in place, based on UK Government recommendations and best practice, and a clause to this effect is included in the church's standard hiring agreement. As evidence of this we reserve the right to see a copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures documentation.

## **Definitions of Terms**

For the purposes of this Policy, the term "child" refers to anyone under the age of 18 years.

There is no standard single definition for an adult at risk, so for our policy we are using the following simple definition taken from Thirtyone:eight<sup>1</sup>:

*"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".*

## **Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Trustees / Deacons**

- Ultimately responsible for safeguarding
- Responsible for the implementation of policy and procedures
- Responsible for supporting the church workers
- Responsible for raising awareness about best practice within the church
- Responsible for ensuring that the relevant people have received the appropriate training

### **Safeguarding Trustee / Deacon**

- Takes a lead on safeguarding matters for the trustees / deacons
- Is the point of contact with trustees / deacons for safeguarding issues
- Ensures church policy and procedures are reviewed annually

### **Designated Person for Safeguarding**

- Receives all reports of concerns regarding the safeguarding of children, young people, and adults at risk
- Listens, observes, and passes on those concerns appropriately, having taken advice from the relevant people
- Acts as a link between the church and other agencies or bodies on safeguarding matters

### **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Verifier**

- Responsible for all aspects of processing DBS checks for church staff and volunteers (with the exception of the accredited minister who is checked by the regional association)

## **The Minister**

- Shares with the trustees the general responsibility for the adoption and implementation of the church's safeguarding policy
- Takes responsibility for ensuring that the pastoral needs of all are being met
- May need to be made aware of safeguarding issues

Please also see our Whistleblowing Policy (adopted 29th January 2023).

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<sup>1</sup> Thirtyone:eight Charity registered in England and Wales No: 1004490. <https://thirtyoneeight.org>