

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Policy Statement on Children, Young People and the Church

This statement was agreed at the church meeting held on 23rd January 2011. It will be read out annually at the church meeting where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

1. As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people. We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church and to this end this policy statement and the child protection principles apply to every member of the Church not just to those working with children and young people.
2. It is the responsibility of each Church Member to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people, and to report any abuse discovered or suspected, in accordance with the Child Protection Guidelines which accompany this statement, which in turn are based largely on those published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its publication *Safe to Grow* (revised edition, 2004).
3. The Church has produced its own summary version of the Child Protection guidelines entitled "Working with Children & Young People". This document will be reviewed and updated as necessary.
4. The church is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and overseeing all those who work with children and young people.
5. We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or volunteers. Each person working with children and young people shall be given a copy of the church's document entitled "Working with Children & Young People" and undertake to observe the best practices and procedures contained therein.
 - a. Group & Sessional Leaders as well as Workers will need to be police checked through the Churches' Agency for Safeguarding before they are allowed to work with children and young people (unsupervised). Anyone who is not police checked will not be allowed to be left unsupervised.
 - b. Every new individual will serve a probationary period of three months. All Group Leaders, Sessional Leaders & Workers will be committed Christians whose lives bear evidence of their Christian profession by being approved by the Pastor(s).
 - c. Others may be allowed to offer support in the capacity of Helper, under the specific direction and supervision of a Group or Sessional Leader.
6. Occasional and visiting workers who have any specific responsibilities for Children or Young People will make a declaration of all their criminal convictions and cautions and will be required to provide any other information or references as are deemed appropriate by the Pastor(s) and/or Child Protection Officer. Any sensitive information will be revealed to and kept by the Pastor(s) or the Child Protection Officer only. Where an overnight stay is involved the Occasional or visiting worker must also sign an undertaking to abide by the church's Child Protection Guidelines.
7. A summary of the church's Child Protection Guidelines called Child Protection Policy Overview will be displayed on a noticeboard in the church.
8. The Diaconate will appoint a Child Protection Officer from among themselves, currently Sue Stean, to give general oversight of the church's work with children and young people and to be responsible for the implementation of this policy.
9. The Diaconate will appoint one or two appropriately qualified people to act in the independent capacity of 'Child Protection Adviser'. These are currently Joy Sanger and Mike Stean. The Child Protection Advisers' role will be to report to the Pastor(s) and/or Diaconate any concerns that are raised about child protection issues in the church. In cases where abuse is disclosed or suspected, the Adviser(s) will be informed, and where further action involving the statutory authorities is required, the Adviser(s) will, wherever possible, consult with the Pastor(s), the Child Protection Officer and/or Diaconate before taking such action.
10. The Diaconate will appoint a CRB Liaison Officer from among themselves, currently Terry Griffith, who will be responsible for the administrative aspects of the child protection policy insofar as they involve liaison with the Churches Agency for Safeguarding for CRB checks.

Sue Stean *January 2011*