



Albany Park Baptist Church

Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children in Albany Park Baptist Church*

*referred to as "the church" in the Policy Statement

The vision statement of the church is ***"To Know Jesus and to make Him known"***

In fulfilling this vision

- we welcome children into the life of our community
- have a programme of events and activities for children
- make our premises available to organisations working with children

The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all 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 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 to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children 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, whether paid or volunteer. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children.

Respecting children

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children so that all children 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 will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being. Where the church premises are being used by outside organisations, checks will be made to ensure that they have safe policies and procedures in place.

A safe community

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying of children. 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.

The Church Safeguarding Team

The church has appointed:

Mr Justin Birkensteins, Designated Person for Safeguarding
(phone number: 07754 6677531 Email: j.birkensteins@btinternet.com)

He will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected

Mr David Keep, Safeguarding Trustee
(phone 0208 302 3052 Email: Secretary@albanyparkbc.org.uk)

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

When possible, the Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise.

(Further definitions of these roles can also be found in *Safe to Grow 2011*)

Policy and Procedures

A copy of this policy statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboard in the entrance to the Hall, on the Church Notice Board and Church website.

Each worker with children will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and will be asked to sign that they are willing to 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 annually.

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