

Quorn Baptist Church



Safeguarding Policy Statement Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

1. Work amongst children, young people and adults at risk¹ should be based upon a guiding philosophy, which is evangelical, Bible based and in keeping with the mission of the Church as described in the Purpose Statement and the Declaration of Faith (Appendix IV).
2. The work should lead children and young people to feel accepted, for they are part of our Church today. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them. As we nurture them in worship, learning and community life, we will respect their wishes and feelings. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of adults at risk and ensuring their well-being in the life of this Church.
3. As a Church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all.
4. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse of children, young people, and adults at risk and to report any abuse discovered or suspected by following the agreed procedures (Appendix I). These procedures will be publicly displayed in each room where activities involving children and young people regularly take place. We are dedicated to the pastoral care and support of those who have experienced abuse in the past.
5. We recognise that our work with children and young people and the support we offer to any adult at risk is the responsibility of the whole Church.
6. We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, young people or adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary, including completion of application forms (Appendix II) and appropriate references (Appendix III). At the discretion of the Designated Person, and with approval from the Deacons, the requirement to complete an application form may be waived where the applicant is already a Church Member and has been **in regular** attendance at the Church for more than 3 years.
7. The overall leaders of each group will be Church Members and regular leaders and helpers will be in regular fellowship with the Church. They will have agreed to the Declaration of Faith (Appendix IV). At the discretion of the group leader, after consultation with the Minister and Designated Person for Safeguarding, there may be people who help at the group who are not in regular fellowship nor feel able to sign Appendix IV. These people will amend it in writing to state: 'I agree to work within the Christian ethos and guidelines of this statement with the help and supervision of the group leader'.
8. We are committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children, young people and adults at risk, and to providing supervision.
9. We will regularly review the Codes of Practice outlining good practice for working with children, young people and adults at risk; drawing on advice from Government and Denominational documents, such as the Home Office publication "Safe from Harm" and the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its booklets "Safe to Grow" (children/young people) and "Safe to Belong" (adults at risk).
10. Each person working with children, young people or adults at risk will be given a copy of this Safeguarding Policy Statement and the relevant Code of Practice and must understand and know the agreed Policy and Code of Practice and undertake to observe them. Each shall be required to acknowledge this in writing.
11. As part of our commitment to children, young people and adults at risk we have appointed a Designated Person for Safeguarding and each organisation for children and young people within the Church has a 'named contact'. The 'named contact' is responsible for regularly explaining their role and that of the Designated Person for Safeguarding to young people (or their parents in the case of younger children) including visitors. Their names and phone numbers will be publicly displayed alongside the reporting procedures (described in Clause 4). The Designated Person for Safeguarding is also the person to contact for any concerns or questions regarding protecting adults at risk.

1. Definitions

In this document children/young people refers to those up to the age of 18 years and 'Adult at Risk' means any adult over the age of 18 who due to disability, intellectual/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 some times in life where risks may increase. Adults at risk may or may not have the mental capacity to make decisions about their own well-being. QBC will be guided by The Baptist Union Booklet, 'Safe to Belong' regarding this issue.

12. With these things in mind, the Church commits itself to pray for one another including children, young people and adults at risk.