

Northall Baptist Church - Safeguarding of children, young people and adults **Statement of Principles**

1. General

The Church recognises the importance of its ministry to children, young people and adults and its responsibility to protect and safeguard all entrusted to its care.

The Church has appointed through its monthly Prayer and Planning Meeting (Church Meeting) Church Leaders whose responsibilities include overseeing these arrangements and have appointed a Designated Person with responsibility to undertake recruiting and clearance procedures in liaison with the Baptist Union (BU) and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and to be the Churches first point of contact on Safeguarding matters.

2. Relevant Documents

In addition to this statement, the following documents have been agreed by the Church Meeting regarding Safeguarding:-

- Safeguarding Policy for Children
- Supervision of Children - Guidelines
- Safeguarding Adults who are at risk

Copies of these documents may be obtained from the Designated Person.

3. Responsibilities

The Designated Person will, on behalf of the Church, be the contact for any member who wishes to raise concerns regarding Safeguarding.

The Designated Person will be responsible for taking up references for volunteers, particularly those involved in 'Regulated Activities' as defined by the 'Protection and Freedom Act 2012' and related legislation and guidelines, and obtaining clearance via the BU from the DBS.

4. Regulated Activities for children and young people

At the current time the only 'Regulated Activities' for children which relate to the Church are in respect of the supervision of children during the Sunday Morning Service. The Act refers to "(i) Unsupervised activities: teach, train, instruct, care for or supervise children on a regular basis." The statutory guidance on this defines 'regularly' as once or more per week or more than 4 times in a 30 day period. In such cases clearance is not mandatory, but is recommended by the BU, along with clearing all Church Leaders for work with both children and adults.

5. Regulated Activities for Adults

At the current time the Church does not engage in any 'Regulated Activities' relating to adults, which in summary are Health Care; Personal Care; Social Work; Assistance with cash, bills or shopping; conduct of a person's affairs; or conveying people (other than as a friend). Should this situation change the Church Leaders will review the situation and report back to the Church Meeting.

6. Safeguarding Training

The Church is committed to appropriate Safeguarding training and will make use of the materials and services being provided by the Baptist Union and ask all members to be involved in this.

Other specific training will be provided to meet specific needs and requirements.

To Be Agreed by the Church Prayer and Planning Meeting on 13 May 2016

Child Safeguarding Policy Statement
Northall Baptist Church

Policy statement on children, young people and the church

This statement was agreed at the church meeting held on 13 May 2016

It will be read annually at the church meeting held in the month of May where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

- As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.
- It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people, and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or voluntary.
- The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people, and to providing supervision.
- The church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice Safe from Harm and adopts the guidelines and procedures published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its publication "Safe to Grow (2015)".
- Each worker with children and young people must know the recommendations, and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the church's agreed procedures and Good Practice guidelines.

As part of our commitment to children and young people the church has appointed:

Lorraine Johnson to be the Independent Person.. Her role will be to pass on any concerns that children under the age of 18 may have to the Safeguarding Team and her role will be regularly explained to children. Her name, address and phone number will be publicly displayed; and Ruth Cox to be the Designated Person..

Signed
Position

Northall Baptist Church - Safeguarding

Supervision of Children Guidelines

1 Introduction.

At present children's activity at Northall Baptist Church is limited to supervision and teaching of no more than 5 children under 12. The period of supervision and teaching will be no more than 1 hour during the normal service time each Sunday morning.

2 Supervisors and Teachers.

Volunteers who supervise and teach the children will have been subject to recruitment procedures and checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service as appropriate. These will be arranged by the Safeguarding Officer. The role of supervisor/teacher is to provide suitable activities for the children, commensurate with their age, during the course of part of the Sunday morning service.

3 Accompanying Parents or Guardians.

In each case the children are brought to church by their parents or guardians who remain in the church service whilst the children are taken out to the Children's Room at the rear of the building. The parents or guardians have, at all times, the opportunity to keep their children in the church service, or release them to engage in the supervised activities.

4 Activities

Activities may involve storytelling, craft work, music, appropriate DVDs or supervised play. Unless agreed otherwise, these activities will be conducted in the Children's Room. Activities will be at the discretion of the supervisor/teacher who will seek guidance/approval from the Designated Person or Safeguarding Trustee if there is any doubt as to suitability of proposed activities.

5 Child Protection.

All volunteers shall familiarise themselves with the procedures in the Northall Baptist Church Safeguarding Policy particularly as they relate to reporting any indications of abuse, neglect or injury. Copies of the Policy are freely available and one copy will be held on the church premises, in the filing cabinet in the vestry.

To Be Agreed by the Church Prayer and Planning Meeting on 13 May 2016

SAFEGUARDING OF ADULTS AT RISK POLICY

This statement was adopted at a church meeting held on 13 May 2016.
It will be presented each year to a church meeting held in the month of May where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

- As members of this church we commit ourselves to the safeguarding of adults at risk and ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
- It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of adults at risk and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We are dedicated in the pastoral care and support of those who have experienced abuse.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with adults at risk.
- The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
- The church adopts the guidelines of the Baptist Union of Great Britain published in "Safe To Belong 2015".
- Each person who works with adults at risk will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

Ruth Cox is the Designated Person for Safeguarding and is responsible for representing the concerns and views of adults at risk at our meetings and to outside bodies. She is also the person to contact for any concerns or questions regarding safeguarding adults at risk.

Her contact details are:

Mrs Ruth Cox
Kenwood Lodge
Leighton Road
Northall, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 2EZ

Signed: 

Position: Church Leader.

Date: 13/5/2016