



'Safe to Grow'

Policy statement on children, young people and the church

- 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 volunteer.
- 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 booklet *Safe to Grow*.
- 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 Mark Carpmail to be their Advocate. His role will be explained regularly to children, and his name, address and phone number publicly displayed.
- Anyone with any cause for concern regarding our care of children and young people and our support of the adults who work with them should contact one of the following:

Ministry Team Leader:	Keith Neville
Members of the Child Advocate group:	Judith Brazier
	Nicky Palmer
	Marian Amphlett
- Children and young people 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 in community life, we will respect the wishes and feelings of children and young people.

The original statement was agreed at the church meeting held on 14 November 1995

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

['Child Advocate Group' to report to Diaconate in October]