

Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children and Young People in Lancaster Baptist Church

The purpose of Lancaster Baptist Church (hereafter referred to as ‘the church’ in this Policy Statement) is:

- To bring glory to God the Father in our lives;
- To bring others into a living relationship with Jesus Christ, and;
- To become a Spirit-led community

In fulfilling this purpose, the church provides a programme of activities with children and young people, and welcomes children and young people into the life of our community.

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

Respecting children and young people

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children and young people so that all children and young people 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 young people, and will adopt ways of working with children and young people that promote their safety and well-being.

A safe community

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying of children and young people. 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.

Responsible people

The church has appointed a Safeguarding Deacon to:

- oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's diaconate and charity trustees.

The church has appointed Stephen Michael Humphrey as the Designated Person for Safeguarding:

- to advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding and children and young people, and;
- to take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered, or suspected.

Policy and Procedures

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the notice board in the Robert Street entrance foyer. Each worker with children and young people whether paid or voluntary will be provided with a full and up-to-date copy of the policy and procedures and will be required to follow them.

A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available upon request to any member of the church, the parents or carers of any child or young person from the church, or any other person associated with the church.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed at least annually.

The policy statement will be read annually at the church meeting in September.