

Safeguarding Policy Statement

This policy statement comes from the *Safeguarding Policy & Procedures* template collaboratively created by the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Christian sector safeguarding organisation 'thirtyone:eight' (<https://thirtyoneeight.org/>), . This policy statement is to be ratified and updated accordingly for every Annual General Meeting, unless significantly policy changes are made between AGM's whereupon it should be ratified and adopted at a church members meeting within six weeks of ratification by the **trustees** of **Beverley Baptist**. This may require the calling of an extraordinary church members meeting.

This policy can be adopted by the church to become a live policy, rejected, whereupon the existing policy remains live or adopted with conditions of update, as specified by the church members' meeting.

1. General Policy

1.1 This policy statement is part of a larger document (BBC CIO Safeguarding Procedural Guide) and the **trustees** of **Beverley Baptist** advise all those attending Beverley Baptist to be cognisant of, and act upon. The larger document gives greater detail of:

- The policy statement.
- Safeguarding procedures for recognising abuse.
- Safeguarding procedures for responding to abuse.
- Safeguarding procedures for reporting abuse.
- Best practice guidelines for work with children
- Best practice guidelines for work with adults at risk
- Health & Safety
- Safer Communities

2. Our Mission

The mission statement of Beverley Baptist Church is

Knowing Jesus and making Him known.

In fulfilling this mission, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Run activities for children and adults at risk
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk

3. Our safeguarding responsibilities

The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

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 this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

- **Prevention and reporting of abuse**

It is the duty of each church member to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

- **Safer recruitment, support and supervision of workers**

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children and adults at risk. They will not be given sole responsibility for children, young people and adults at risk until they have completed the relevant safeguarding training.

- **Respecting children and adults at risk**

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children and adults at risk so that all children and adults are shown the respect that is due to them.

- **Safer working practices**

The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

- **A safer community**

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children, young people and adults at risk in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

4. Safeguarding contact points within our church

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team:

Steph Tongeman , Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS):

The Designated Person for Safeguarding, also referred to as the Safeguarding Lead, will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Email (preferred communication method): safeguarding@beverleybaptist.com

Dedicated telephone (and voicemail) number: 07356 014777

- Text and WhatsApp functionality is not provisioned on this telephone number.
- Please email safeguarding@beverleybaptist.com wherever possible, or call the number phone provided. If it is an emergency, Contact the relevant authorities.
- Safeguarding messages will be responded to as soon as humanly possible. This might be during office hours on the next working day.

Karen Messenger, Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS):

The DDPS will assist the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) in helping the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Email: safeguarding@thearmstrongcentre.com

Chris Peach, Safeguarding Trustee:

The Safeguarding Trustee will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees.

Our Community Chaplain is an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team, and will offer pastoral support, where it is requested, for any safeguarding matter.

Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if, and when issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

5. Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently and publicly within The Armstrong Centre, and is available on our church website.
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary will be given a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will 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, including the parent / carer of any child associated with the church or attending an activity organised by Beverley Baptist.
- The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.
- The policy statement will be read annually at the church AGM, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

6. Adoption of this policy

The Leadership Team (charity trustees) of Beverley Baptist formally accepted this policy at the Leadership Team (charity trustees) meeting held on 12 September 2024 and the membership supported that decision at the 2024 AGM held on Sunday 17 November 2024.