



Safeguarding Statement

As a church in the local community, Walsgrave Baptist Church (WBC) seeks to:

Make the love of God first on our list, welcoming all to experience the love and power of Jesus, to inspire our people – being Jesus to one another – and to use our buildings and resources in ways that show love to our community and city.

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, young people and adults at risk associated with the church ensuring their well-being in the life of this 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, emotional, financial and spiritual abuse of children, young people and adults at risk and the duty of all to respond to concerns about their well-being and to report any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

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

The church is dedicated to providing pastoral care and support to those who have experienced abuse.

Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, young people and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of these individuals. They will each receive a copy of relevant policies and procedures to their post and will be required to follow them.

The church adopts the guidelines of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. Each person who works with children, young people and adults at risk will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

Safe working practices

The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children, young people and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

A safe community

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

Responsible people

The church has appointed Daisy Oppon as the Safeguarding Trustee to:

- oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the charity Trustees

The church has appointed Fiona Chikumbirike and Karen Dowey as the Designated Persons for Safeguarding to:

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

Policy and Procedures

A copy of the Safeguarding Statement will be displayed permanently on the Information Noticeboard in the foyer.

Each worker with children, young people and adults at risk whether paid or voluntary will be given a full 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 on request to any member of the church, the parents or carers of any child or young person from the church or any person associated with the church.

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

The Safeguarding Statement will be read each year at the Annual General Church Meeting, together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.