

LEDBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

POLICY STATEMENT

Safeguarding Children, Young People, Adults at Risk in the Church

(reviewed March 2023)

Ledbury Baptist Church (referred to as “the church” in the Policy Statement)

The church

- Has a programme of activities with children, young people and adults at risk
- Welcomes children, young people and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Makes our premises available to organisations working with children, young people and adults at risk

Children & Young People The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of 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 (updated July 2018 to reflect changes brought about by the **Children and Social Work Act 2017**).

‘What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused-advice for practitioners’ (HM Government update May 2015)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What to do if you re worried a child is being abused.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf)

‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ (HM Government July 2018).

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942454/Working together to safeguard children inter agency guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942454/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_inter_agency_guidance.pdf)

Adults at Risk The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of adults at risk (regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability) as set out in The Baptist Union of Great Britain ‘Safe to Belong 2015’. As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk associated with the church.

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, young people and adults at risk, and the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children, young people and adults at risk and to report any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully cooperate 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, young people and adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with support to promote the safeguarding of children.

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 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 **Geoff Rutherford** as the Safeguarding Trustee, and **Martyn Kyle** as the Deputy Safeguarding Trustee to:

- Oversee and monitor implementation of the policy and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees

The church has appointed **Gillian Blows** as the Designated Person 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. There is currently no Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding.

Policy and procedures

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboard in the church foyer, and on the noticeboard in the church hall.

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, young person or adult at risk 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 available on the Ledbury Baptist Church website.

[About Us | My Site \(geoffrutherford1.wixsite.com\)](http://geoffrutherford1.wixsite.com)

To be signed when appointed to work with children, young people or adults at risk

I confirm that I have read, and understand this Safeguarding Policy Statement and the associated Safeguarding Procedures for Ledbury Baptist Church.

Name

Signature

Date

Please detach this slip and return to Gill Blows