

Hall Green Baptist Chapel, Haworth
Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures

The purpose of our church is to worship God and to spread the gospel message of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In fulfilling this purpose, the church

- has a program of activities with children and young people
- 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 their gender, ethnicity or ability. These responsibilities are set out in The Children Act 1989 and 2004, *Safe from Harm* (HM Government 1994), and *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Government 2020). In order to ensure that our policy is as relevant as possible, information and guidance has also been drawn from the document *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (DfE, 2020).

As members of the church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all children and young people associated with the church and who enter the church from the wider community through our various outreach programs. To this end, 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. It is 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. Ref Appendix 1 'procedures for reporting a disclosure' and 2 'Types of abuse.' Also refer to appendix 5 'Contacting the named person' and appendix 6 'Format for recording a disclosure.'

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 all children. All church members who work with children are DBS checked. The checks are organised by Sara Benshams. We adhere to the 'Safe to Grow,' Safe Recruitment Procedures. Refer to appendix 8 'Whistleblowing policy.'

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. Refer to appendix 3 'Code of conduct.'

Safe working practises

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. Ref Appendix 4.

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 anyone 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 **Emma Harmon** as the designated person for safeguarding to:

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

Sharon Swards is the second designated person for child protection and safeguarding.

Policy and procedures

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboard in the basement room of the church.

Each worker with young people and children whether paid or voluntary will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and will be required to follow them.

A copy of the full 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 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 the autumn together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.