



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 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 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.

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 these individuals.

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 they 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 them 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 Jill Neale as the Safeguarding Trustee to:

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

The church has appointed Hannah Wallis 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

Policy and Procedures

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

Each worker with children and young people whether paid or voluntary will be given a full copy of the policy and procedures and will be required to follow them. A new Safeguarding Policy Handbook continues to be under review.

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 annually at the church meeting in May, together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.