

Beckenham Baptist Church

Policy Statement on Children, Young People and the Church

This statement was agreed at the church meeting held on

It will be read annually at the church meeting held in the month of _____ where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

- As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safe keeping of all, especially children and young people
- It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people, and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or volunteer.
- The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people, and to providing supervision.
- The church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice *Safe from Harm* and adopts the guidelines and procedures published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its publication *Safe to Grow* (revised edition).
- Each worker with children and young people must know the recommendations and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the church's agreed procedures and Good Practice guidelines.
- As part of our commitment to children and young people, the church has appointed Carole Alexander and Jill Jones to be their Advocates. Their role will be regularly explained to children and their names and phone numbers publicly displayed.

Children and young people are part of our church today. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will listen to them. As we nurture them in worship, learning and in community life, we will respect the wishes of children and young people.