

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### **on Safeguarding Children & Young People at Dunchurch Baptist Church**

***Our vision is for people to experience the love of God and hear his message for them***

In fulfilling this vision the church:

- has a programme of activities with children and young people
- welcomes children and young people into the life of our community
- makes our premises available to organisations working with children and young people

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's 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**

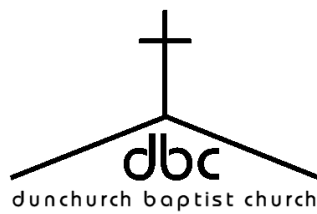
It is the duty of each church member and each member of the wider church family to be vigilant in preventing the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people and the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and young people and to report any child abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

#### **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 children and young people.

#### **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.



### **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 children and young people 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 .....Don Hersey.....  
as the Safeguarding Trustee to:

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

The church has appointed .....Chris Tabor.....  
as the Designated Person for Safeguarding to:

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

### **Equal Opportunities**

As an organisation using the Disclosure and Barring Service to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, the church undertakes to treat all applicants fairly. We undertake not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a disclosure on the basis of conviction or other information received.

We welcome people to serve the church on the basis of the right mix of talent, skills, character, potential and call of God, including those who have a criminal record.

A DBS disclosure will be requested in line with our church's recruitment policy only after it has been determined that it is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned.

A criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to a person serving with children or young people. Any decision will be dependent on the nature of the position and the nature and circumstances of the offence.

### **Policy and procedures**

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on a church notice board and will be posted on the church website.

Each person working with children and young people will be given a copy of the "Code of Behaviour" and the "Procedure for Prevention and Reporting of Abuse" and will be required to follow them.

A full copy of the policy and procedures will be given to leaders of activities for children and young people, and will be made available on request to any member of the church, 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 by the Safeguarding Trustee and the Designated Person for Safeguarding..

The policy statement will be read annually at the church meeting in .....May..... together with a report on the outcome of the annual review.