



LONDON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

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Child Protection Policy

1 Church Details

Name: **LONDON ROAD BAPTIST** (hereafter, "The Church")

Address: **KIRKLEY PARK ROAD,
LOWESTOFT SUFFOLK.
NR33 0LQ**

Tel No: **01502 514091/515343** Email address: **lrbc@freenetname.org.uk**

2 Mission Statement.

The Church recognises the importance of its ministry to children and young people and its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people entrusted to the Church's care.

As part of its mission, the Church is committed to:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people as well as promoting their welfare and protection.
- Safe recruitment, supervision and training for all the children's/youth workers within the church
- Adopting a procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse.
- Encouraging and supporting parents/carers.
- Supporting any affected by abuse in the church.
- Maintaining good links with the statutory childcare authorities and other organisations.

3 Church Policy

The Church recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children and young people. It also acknowledges that children and young people can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. The Church has therefore adopted the procedures set out in this document (hereafter "the policy"). It also recognises the need to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary child protection agencies. The policy and attached practice guidelines are based on a model published by the Church's Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) and prepared in consultation with the Church's Child Protection Advisor... The Church undertakes to file a copy of the policy and practice guidelines with CCPAS and social services, and any amendments subsequently published. The Church agrees not to allow the document to be copied by other organisations.

The Church is committed to on-going child protection training for all children/youth workers and will regularly review the operational guidelines attached.

The Church also undertakes to follow the principles found within the Abuse of Trust guidance issued by the Home Office and it is therefore unacceptable for those in a position of trust to engage in any behaviour which might allow a sexual relationship to develop for as long as the relationship of trust continues.

4 Responding To Allegations Of Abuse

Under no circumstances should a Church worker carry out their own investigation into the allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse will do the following:

- Concerns must be reported as soon as possible to **the Safe to Grow Advisor** who is nominated by the Church to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
- The **Safe To Grow Advisor** may also be required by conditions of the church Insurance Policy to immediately inform the Insurance Company.
- In the absence of the **Safe To Grow Advisor**, or if the suspicions in any way involve the **Safe To Grow Advisor** then the report should be made to **The Deputy Safe To Grow Advisor**. If the suspicions implicate both the **Safe To Grow Advisor and The Deputy** then the report should be made in the first instance to the Senior Minister who will inform the Church's Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ. Telephone 0845 120 4550 or alternatively contact Social Services. The local Social Services office telephone number between 9.00am and 5.00pm is 01502 405000. The out of hours emergency number is 01473 299669. The **Police Child Protection Team** telephone number is **01502 742299**. **The Local Authority Designated Officer's number is: 01502 405097**
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with church procedures and kept in a secure place.
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the **Safe To Grow Advisor**, in the absence of the **Safe To Grow Advisor or Deputy** there should not be delay in making a referral to the Social Services Department.
- The Church will support the **Safe To Grow Advisor or Deputy** in their role, and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the child protection agencies or seek advice from CCPAS, although the Church hopes that members of the church will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the **Safe To Grow Advisor or Deputy** has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the **advisor(s)** as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that the Church demonstrates the commitment of the Church to effective child protection.
- The role of the **Safe To Grow Advisor or deputy** is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to the Social Services Department. It is Social Services task to investigate the matter under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

5 Allegations of Physical Injury or Neglect.

If a child has a physical injury or symptom of neglect, the Safe To Grow Advisor or Deputy will:

- Contact Social Services (or CCPAS) for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
- Will not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so having contacted Social Services.
- Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
- For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of injury.
- Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Social Services direct for advice.
- Seek and follow advice given by CCPAS (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Social Services.

6 Allegations of Sexual Abuse

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Safe To Grow Advisor or Deputy will:

- Contact the Social Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or Police Child Protection Team direct. They will NOT speak to the parent/carer or anyone else.
- Seek and follow the advice given by CCPAS if, for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Social Services/Police. CCPAS will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

7 Appointment, Support, Supervision & Training of Leaders & Workers.

The Church will ensure all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with the principles set out in government guidelines "Safe from Harm" (HMSO 1993), the Criminal Records Bureau / Scottish Criminal Records Office / PECS Codes of Practice, CCPAS guidance and church practice guidelines attached. The same principles will be applied to those appointed to work with vulnerable adults.

8 Support to Those Affected By Abuse.

The Church is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to those attending the Church that have been affected by abuse.

9 Working With Offenders

When someone attending the Church is known to have abused children, the Church will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care, but in its commitment to the protection of children, set boundaries for that person which they will be expected to keep.

This policy will be reviewed annually on (date) _____	
Signed _____ _____	Date
Print Name _____ ____Pastor_____	Appointment
Signed _____ _____	Date
Print Name _____ Secretary_____	Appointment _____Church