

Forest Gate Baptist Church



Safeguarding Policy – Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

April 2024

Forest Gate Baptist Church, Forest Gate, Blackpool FY3 9AW
01253 397400

Forest Gate Baptist Church - Safeguarding Contact Details

Designated Person for Safeguarding

Name: Anthony Lord

Contact Number: 07853951890

Email: lorda@sky.com

Safeguarding Trustee

Name: Anthony Lord

Contact Number: 07853951890

Email: lorda@sky.com

Safeguarding Email Address

forestgatebaptistchurch@gmail.com

BUGB Safeguarding Contacts

North West Baptist Association Regional Minister

Name: Phil Jump

Contact Number: 07754599298

Email: phil@nwba.org.uk

North West Baptist Association Safeguarding Lead

Name: Tim Presswood

Contact Number: 07966417502

<https://www.nwbayouth.com/safeguarding>

North West Baptist Association Minister for Youth

Name: Jonny Hirst

Email: jonnyh@nwba.org.uk

Other Safeguarding Contacts

Police Non-Emergency Number: 101

Blackpool Social Services

Child and Family Information, Advice and Assistance Service

Duty and Assessment Team, 125 Albert Road, Blackpool, FY1 4BA

Contact Number: 01253 477299 (available 24 hours)

Email: duty.assessment@blackpool.gov.uk

Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children and Young People in Forest Gate Baptist Church

Forest Gate Baptist Church will be referred to as “the church” in the Policy.

The purpose of the church is to evangelize our community and beyond, to encourage people to become more Christ-like through discipleship. We are committed to meeting the needs of those inside and outside our walls through ministry. We value fellowship and will come before the Lord in obedience to worship Him.

In fulfilling this purpose, the church:

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

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all children, young people and vulnerable adults associated with the church and will pray for them regularly.

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 2018). The church also recognises the same responsibilities with regard to vulnerable adults.

In pursuit of this we commit ourselves to the following policy points, and associated procedures to ensure their implementation.

1. 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, young people and vulnerable adults and the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults, 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.

2. Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of these individuals.

3. Respecting children and young people

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults so that all children and young people are shown the respect that is due to them.

4. Safe working practices

The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children, young people and vulnerable adults and will adopt ways of working with these individuals that promote their safety and well-being.

5. A safe community

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any who may pose a risk to children, young people and vulnerable adults in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

Responsible people

A member of the diaconate will be appointed as a dedicated Safeguarding Trustee. The church will also appoint one male and one female Designated Person for Safeguarding.

The church has appointed **Anthony Lord** 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 **Anthony Lord** as the Designated Person for Safeguarding to:

- Advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- Take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Pastoral care

The Church will ensure that in cases where abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected, appropriate pastoral care is provided (either from within the Church or externally) for the alleged victim(s), their families and/or alleged abuser(s).

Availability of policy and procedures

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed at least annually. A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently in the Church Foyer.

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

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, young person or vulnerable adult from the church or any other person associated with the church.

The policy statement will be read annually at the church AGM, together with any outcomes of the annual review.

Signed (Church Secretary):

Date: April 2024

(Review Date: April 2024)