

EXMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH – SAFE TO GROW

APPENDIX 1

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Policy statement on Children, Young People and the Church.

This statement was agreed at the Church meeting held on the 1st February 1996. It will read at the annual General Meeting where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

Mrs Janet White (Supervisor) was appointed as monitor.

Statement

As members of the Church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safe keeping of all, especially children and young people.

We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.

The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people, and to providing supervision. The supervisor shall equip himself/herself to be able to recognise abuse. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people both on and off the church premises, and to report any abuse discovered or suspected to the supervisor.

The church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice *Safe from Harm* (see Appendix 1: Guidelines attached.) This adopts the guidelines and procedures published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its booklet of *Safe to Grow*.

Each worker with children and young people must know the recommended practice guidelines and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the church's agreed procedures and good practice guideline and shall agree to their implementation.

As part of our commitment to the children and young people, the church will display the telephone numbers of appropriate organisations (e.g: Childline.)

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Three copies of the Baptist Union Handbook *Safe to Grow* are available for reference and training of both present and future children's and young people's workers. Detailed application of the agreed guideline may be found therein.

All children's/young people's workers will meet together regularly to review the agreed policy and guidelines.

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Safe from Harm: Summary of Recommendations (Pub: Home Office, London 1993, ISBN 0862529 93-X)

In order to safeguard the welfare of the children and young people in their charge, voluntary organisations should consider the issues raised by each of the following statements of principle and then, if they wish to do so, take any action which they deem appropriate in the light of their circumstances and structures, and the nature of their activities.

1. Adopt a policy statement on safeguarding the welfare of children.
2. Plan the work of the organisation as to minimise situations where abuse of children may occur. Two leaders to be present at any Church/Clun activity.
3. Ensure children's access to help from outside agencies (eg: Childline)
4. Apply agreed procedures for protecting children to all paid staff and volunteers.
5. Give all paid staff and volunteers clear roles.
6. Use supervision as a means of protecting children.
7. Treat all would-be paid staff and volunteers as job applicants for any position involving contact with children.
8. Gain at least one reference from a person who has experience of the applicant's paid work or volunteering with children.
9. Make paid and voluntary appointment conditional on the successful completion of a probationary period.
10. Explore all applicants experienced of working or contact with children in an interview before appointment.
11. Issue guidelines on how to deal with the disclosure or discovery of abuse (i.e. contact supervisor.)

Addendum

Interviews/references were agreed not to be necessary for leaders appointed by the church prior to the adoption of this policy on 01/02/1996.