

## Guisseley Baptist Church

### Policy statement on children, young people and the church

This statement was agreed at the church meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017  
It will be read annually at the church meeting held in the month of February  
where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

At Guisseley Baptist Church we have a vision for sharing the love of Jesus and  
integral to this is the provision that we make for children and young people  
within our church family and community.

Guisseley Baptist Church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of  
all children and young people under the age of 18 (regardless of gender, race  
or ethnicity) as set out in The Children 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 safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.
- It is the responsibility of each one 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.

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the noticeboard in the foyer A full copy of the Policy and Procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church and will be available on the Church website.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually.

As part of our commitment to children and young people, the church has appointed **Mrs Joy Liles & Mr Luke Watts** to be their Advocate(s).

Their role will be regularly explained to children, and their names and phone numbers publicly displayed.