

**Didsbury Baptist Church**  
**Safeguarding Policy**

**Didsbury Baptist Church**  
**School Lane / Beaver Road**  
**Didsbury**  
**Manchester M20 6SX**

*Registered CIO no. 1199278*

Revised  
January 2025

# Didsbury Baptist Church

## POLICY STATEMENT on Safeguarding

### Definitions

- The term ‘child’ refers to anyone under the age of 18 years.
- ‘Adult at risk’ – the definition (following the Baptists Together guidelines) is taken from Thirtyone:Eight (formerly CCPAS - Churches’ Child Protection Advisory Service):  
“Any adult aged 18 or over who, due to disability, mental function, age, illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation.”

### Didsbury Baptist Church

(referred to as ‘the church’ in the Policy Statement)

In keeping with its aims the church:

- Welcomes children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Runs activities for children and adults at risk
- Makes its premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk

### Our safeguarding responsibilities

The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly. In pursuit of this we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

### Prevention and reporting of abuse

It is the duty of each church member and each member of the wider church family to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our procedures. 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 adults at risk, whether paid or voluntary. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safeguarding of children and adults at risk.

### Respecting children and adults at risk

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

### Safer working practices

The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

### **A safer community**

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

### **Responsible people**

The church has appointed the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team.

#### **Sarah Chambers, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)**

They will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

*Phone number / Email address*

Available on request from [didsburybaptist@outlook.com](mailto:didsburybaptist@outlook.com) or 0161 434 1451

#### **Ruth Sheldrake, Safeguarding Trustee**

They will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees.

*Phone number / Email address*

Available on request from [didsburybaptist@outlook.com](mailto:didsburybaptist@outlook.com) or 0161 434 1451

Our church minister is also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

### **Putting our policy in practice**

A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the notice board in the church building's entrance foyer and is available on the church website.

Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given a full copy of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow them.

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.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.

The policy statement will be read annually at the church AGM, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

*Policy statement approved  
27 November 2022  
Reviewed 24 November 2024*