



Introduction to safeguarding support for Baptist churches

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the protection of adults and children from harm, abuse or neglect.

We all have the same rights and expectations to independence, respect, choice, fulfilment of our ambitions, to be heard, included, and to have privacy and confidentiality. These expectations are central to the way in which we interact with each other in our life together.

Safeguarding involves a range of activities aimed at promoting the individual's fundamental right to be safe. These include making and maintaining safe environments for all, having processes to follow should something go wrong, and support for everyone involved.

Across Baptists Together, we are committed in our churches, associations, colleges and Specialist Teams to support excellence in safeguarding. We have worked hard to put in place policies, procedures, training and support to help all those who work with children, young people and adults at risk.

Safeguarding support for churches

Each of our regional associations has a regional safeguarding lead who can provide support to churches where additional guidance or help is needed. For details of how to contact the regional safeguarding lead for your association area, please follow this link to our association safeguarding contacts page ([LINK](#)).

BUGB Safeguarding materials and resources for churches

Help is available for churches who want to implement or update robust safeguarding policies and procedures. Listed overleaf are some of the core materials available free of charge for use by churches and church leaders.

Model Safeguarding Policy

Our model safeguarding policy has been written to offer a template and a set of helpful guidance notes for churches as they develop or review the safeguarding framework for their church. It contains four sections:

- **Safeguarding Policy Statement** – this is a template policy that you can use as a starting point for your own church’s policy
- **Safeguarding Procedures** – these sections provide a clear outline of the reporting procedures needed in every local Baptist church
- **Best Practice Guidelines** – these guidelines provide detailed information on key areas of safeguarding in the life of a Baptist church.
- **Useful Contacts** – contacts for organisations and charities who can provide additional support



The model policy is available for download in WORD or PDF format using the following link:

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/509643/Model_Safeguarding_Policy.aspx

Safeguarding topic-based guides



A series of informative guides are available that provide more detailed information for those who hold safeguarding responsibilities in their churches.

These are good starting points for learning and discussion in your church.

Currently, eight different guides are available and can be downloaded as PDF documents from our website.

- DBS Checks
- Cyber-Safety

- Understanding Self-harm
- Understanding Domestic Abuse
- Safeguarding Contracts: Frequently Asked Questions
- Undertaking the role of Designated Person for Safeguarding
- Supporting Survivors
- Safeguarding Record Keeping

Safeguarding Audit Tool for Churches

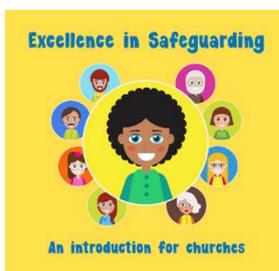


Is it the right time to do a detailed review of safeguarding practices in your church?

Our safeguarding audit tool provides a framework for churches to look at their existing policies and practices, and to look for opportunities to develop further.

This is a great way to check compliance with safeguarding legislation, guidance and best practice

Level 1 Excellence in Safeguarding film for churches



Level 1 Excellence in Safeguarding is a short, 8 minute film designed for use in all age services or events.

To complement this film there is a set of materials for sessions with children and young people based around the parable of the Good Samaritan. This material involves a variety of age appropriate activities for children in school years Reception to 9 which help to get the message of safeguarding across to the children and young people of the church.

A second shorter version of this film designed for use in church members meetings is also available. Churches may choose to use this as part of their annual review of safeguarding policy.

Gateway to Level 2 Excellence in Safeguarding

This guide will help volunteers who want to work with children, young people or adults at risk in your church to understand the basics of safeguarding in a church context before they attend the Baptist Union of Great Britain Level 2 Excellence in Safeguarding training.



This guide is not intended to be a replacement for the Level 2 course but is a useful tool for the Designated Person for Safeguarding to use with new volunteers as a precursor to Level 2 training.

Excellence in Safeguarding training

Our Level 2 and 3 Excellence in Safeguarding training courses are run on a regular basis in all of our association areas. For more information please contact your local association who can give you details of dates, times and locations for training in your area.

During the coronavirus lockdown period, we have produced a 90 minute 'Safeguarding Update' film covering all of the key points of our Level 2 and 3 training, Your church can access this film through your local association safeguarding lead, who can arrange for you to watch the film, and to have a follow up online question and answer session with one of our safeguarding trainers.

Last reviewed: February 2021