

Good Practice Guidelines - Policy Statement

Morden Baptist Church (MBC) is a church of ordinary people who are seeking to live their lives out by following Jesus and the way He lived. We believe that every child, young person and vulnerable adult is of infinite value to God and therefore take their protection seriously. MBC recognises the importance of ministry to children, young people and vulnerable adults and its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of the most vulnerable in our communities. We believe that safeguarding is central to our Gospel Mission and should be integral to all aspects of our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults who are entrusted to our care.

These guidelines are to be read in conjunction with MBC's Children Protection & Safeguarding Policy Statement.

- It is essential that any safeguarding issues are not trivialised or exaggerated, and that proper steps are followed.
- Words and actions may be open to misinterpretation, and therefore great care should be taken to avoid situations in which actions could be misunderstood.
- Volunteers should never meet with, a child or young person outside the organised activity.
- Volunteers will be responsible for ensuring that abusive peer activities (such as bullying or any other form of abuse) do not occur.

Under no circumstances should any volunteer/team member carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse will do the following:

- Do not ask the child or adults leading questions, or place your own interpretation upon what they have said. When they have finished, reassure them that they were right to tell you, and that you have taken what they said seriously. Tell them what it is that you intend to do next. Keep them informed of your actions.
- Concerns must be reported as soon as possible to the Darren Powell, who will act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter to the statutory authorities.
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made and kept in a secure place.

Darren Powell

Children & Families Worker
(Child Protection Co-ordinator)

Morden Baptist Church

Crown Lane, Surrey SM4 5BL

Office: 020 8540 9380

Mobile: 07703 156 882

Email: darren@faithinmorden.com