

ROMSEY BAPTIST CHURCH

POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE

1. As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.
2. Recognising that children and young people have much to give as well as to receive, we will respect them and listen to their wishes and feelings.
3. 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.
4. We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.
5. The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people, and to providing supervision.
6. The church will publish guidelines for safeguarding children and young people and procedures to be followed if abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. These documents will be reviewed annually with this policy statement and updated as necessary.
7. Volunteers to help with children and young people's work will be asked to fill in an application form, declaring any qualifications, training and relevant skills, interests or experience. The form will ask for two references and also contain a declaration of any conviction for criminal offences or of any current criminal charges. Each volunteer will also be asked to apply for the relevant Criminal Records Bureau disclosure.
8. Each worker with children and young people will be given a copy of the guidelines and procedures and will be issued with a Volunteer Contract. He/she will be asked to sign a declaration that he/she understands their role and that he/she has read the guidelines and procedures documents and undertakes to observe them.
9. A named person (currently SA) appointed at each AGM of the church will see that the policy is implemented, procedures maintained and reviewed, and training undertaken. She will be the first point of reference should problems arise, and will then decide whether to contact the advising body (currently PCCA) appointed by the Southern Baptist Association if any matter needs further action.
10. Date of this version: Confirmed at AGM – 21st March 2005.