

Prevention and Reporting of Abuse

It is the duty of each church member and each member of the wider church family to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people, and the duty of all to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and young people and to report any child abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

We all share responsibility for the well-being of children at RBC, and the aim of this Procedure is that everyone who attends Ruddington Baptist Church should be aware of how they should respond if abuse is suspected.

Abuse and neglect can be difficult to spot, and some of the potential indicators listed below may have other causes. However, your role is not to decide whether abuse is happening, only to report what you observe.

- Unexplained injuries, particularly on areas of the body not usually prone to injury.
- An injury which has not been treated/received medical attention.
- An injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent.
- Changes in behaviour or mood. (e.g. becoming very withdrawn, or sudden bursts of temper)
- Inappropriate sexual awareness.
- Signs of neglect, e.g. under-nourishment, untreated illness, inadequate care, or inappropriate clothing for the time of year.

Abusers may be

- A family member or family friend.
- Someone respected and in a position of trust.
- Of any background.
- Acting alone or with others.
- Another child or young person.
- Within the church.

When a child discloses harm or abuse they may be feeling frightened, may have been threatened, and often feel loyalty to the person about whom they are talking.

Our Promise

- ✓ We will provide (through the Baptist Union) training to every person who works with children and young people, so that they understand the ways in which children can be harmed, and know how to respond.
- ✓ We will ensure that every child and young person knows how to contact the Designated Person in Ruddington Baptist Church (currently Ruth Ross).
- ✓ We will report any concerns to the Designated Person without delay.

When children or young people tell us about harm they are suffering, we will:

- ✓ Listen calmly, carefully, and without asking more than is needed to establish whether there is cause for concern.
- ✓ Reassure the child or young person, and help them to understand what is going to happen next – that other people will need to be told.
- ✗ Never promise, or lead a child to believe that any child protection concern will be kept confidential.
- ✓ Make notes as soon as possible, using the child's language and recording any questions we asked.
- ✓ Report to the Designated Person without delay.

HOW WE WILL RESPOND TO CONCERNS

STAGE 1

Someone has a concern about the welfare of a child/young person,
or about the behaviour of an adult

The person who has the concern has a duty to

RECORD AND REPORT

The person must write a report as soon as possible after the event and report the concern to the Designated Person (Ruth Ross) without delay, and within 24 hours.

If a child is in imminent danger of harm, a referral should be made to the police or Social Services without delay.

STAGE 2

The Designated Person receives the report of concern

The Designated Person has a duty to

REVIEW AND REFER

Ruth will review the report, along with any other relevant information, and take a decision (usually in consultation with others) as to what action should follow.

If a child is in imminent danger of harm, a referral should be made to the police or Social Services without delay.

STAGE 3

After the decision has been made as to what action should be taken

Ruth and other leaders may have a duty to

SUPPORT AND REPORT

Support should be offered to all parties affected, and where formal referrals are made, reports may need to be made to the EMBA, the Disclosure and Barring Service or the Charity Commission.

NB: In Ruth's absence, or if the concern involves Ruth,
it should be referred to Kirsten Bairstow-Robb