

A Safe Community – Known Offender.

*Ruddington Baptist Church is committed to the prevention of bullying of children and young people **The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any who may pose a risk to children and young people in the community of the church is managed appropriately.***

When a known offender is present.

We believe that Ruddington Baptist Church should be welcoming and open to all. It is a place for those who have failed, and those who are in need, and this welcome includes those who have abused children and young people in the past. However, the gospel imperative to welcome the sinner needs to be set alongside the gospel imperative to protect children and young people.

Current research tells us that

- Patterns of abusive behaviour may be deeply ingrained in a person's character.
- Ex-offenders continue to pose a real threat to children and young people.
- Ex-offenders can be very persuasive in expressing remorse and presenting themselves as people who are now living a different way of life.
- Abusers are often people who are able to get on well with children and young people, and are seen by them as trustworthy.

If a person who has been convicted of a sexual offence against children or young people, and is on the Sex Offenders' Register begins to attend Ruddington Baptist Church

- ✓ They will be monitored under guidelines known as "Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements" (MAPPA) which mean that a written contract has to be in place if an offender wishes to attend a church.
- ✓ They will have a Specialist Probation Officer who will inform the church of any relevant information/restrictions.

Our promise

- ✓ We will allow the known offender to rebuild their lives by informing the minimum number of people of their conviction and details of the contract. These will always include the Safeguarding Trustee, the Designated Person for Safeguarding (Ruth Ross) the minister (or Leadership Team member during a pastoral vacancy) and the Regional Minister (Dianne Tidball).
- ✓ We will have an open discussion to establish clear boundaries for their involvement in the life of the church.
- ✓ We will draw up a written contract to be signed by the person.
- ✓ The contract will be monitored and enforced, with sanctions considered where the contract is broken. This may ultimately include banning the person from attending the church.

The contract

- ✓ Will identify the meetings the person may attend.
- ✓ Will specify that they sit apart from children and young people.
- ✓ May require that the person declines hospitality where there are children or young people.
- ✓ Will state that the person will never be alone with children or young people while attending church functions.
- ✓ Will require the person to stay away from areas of the Young People's Centre where children or young people meet.
- ✓ May ask that they are always accompanied by a befriender on church premises.