

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

*Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church
Policy statement on children, young people and the church*

This statement was first agreed at the church meeting held on 16th January 2003

The Child Protection Policy Statement will be read annually at the church meeting in September where progress in carrying the policy out will be reported; and any changes to the Policy will be agreed.

Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church aims to be a community of believers living according to the Bible's teaching, so that Christ's redemptive purposes can be accomplished in the world. Our mission is to enable people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. We therefore highly value our children and young people and commit ourselves to their care, support and growth.

- We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.*
- As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.*
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or volunteer.*
- The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and young people, and to providing supervision.*
- 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.*
- The church is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice "Safe from Harm" and adopts the guidelines and procedures published by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in its booklet "Safe to Grow".*
- Each leader with children and young people must know the recommendations, and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the church's agreed procedures and good practice guidelines.*
- As part of our commitment to children and young people, the church has appointed Mandy Talbot to be their Child Protection Officer. Her role will be regularly explained to the children and the church community, and her name, address, phone number and email will be publicly displayed.*

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