

BRISTOL BAPTIST COLLEGE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Rationale

The college welcomes children for shared meals, worship and social events. Students go on placements and to events in school, church or community where children, young people and vulnerable adults may be present. This policy aims to establish safe boundaries and good practice in our care of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Principles

Bristol Baptist College recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding and care of children, young people and vulnerable adults, both within the college community and those outside college for whom students and staff take responsibility on behalf of the college.

All students and staff whose training programmes or work responsibilities bring them into contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults are asked to provide evidence of enhanced disclosure through the Disclosure and Barring Service and when necessary, the college will instigate the application for this.

Where the college offers children's activities they will follow the guidelines in 'Safe to Grow' (BUGB 2011).

The college will respond without delay to any complaint made that a child, young person or vulnerable adult with whom college students or staff have been in contact may have been harmed.

The college will co-operate fully with statutory agencies during any investigation they make into allegations concerning a member of the college community.

This policy will be subject to annual review and approval by the College Council.

Procedures

Enhanced disclosure through the DBS is required of:

- All members of the college faculty (every 3 years)
- The college's designated person for Safeguarding
- All ministerial students
- All CYM students
- All other students whose courses involve placements
- Any other staff or students who are involved in activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults organised by the College.

In the case of international students who have not been ordinarily resident in the UK, the national equivalent of DBS enhanced disclosure will be required or, if such is not national practice, a certificate of good conduct will be required through the authority issuing their visa.

In addition all the above will be required to sign a confidential declaration concerning spent and unspent criminal convictions or cautions and references will be taken up.

Any person who is due to come into direct contact with children in programmes organised by the college or its students and whose DBS disclosure is in process must have completed the confidential declaration and be supervised at all times in

their work with children.

Any concerns or anxieties that anyone has over issues connected with the welfare of children in the college should be discussed with the college's designated person for Safeguarding. S/he will assess whether the matter needs to be brought to the attention of the college leadership team. Concerns that arise during a placement should be reported to the designated person for Safeguarding of the host church or organisation; advice can also be sought from the designated person in college.

Issues arising out of DBS disclosure in the appointment of staff or admission of students will follow the procedures of the college's registered body for DBS disclosure.

Parents or primary carers are responsible for their children's safety at all times, and must ensure that they are neither in a position of danger nor a cause of danger to others. Members of the college community are encouraged to promote the well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to be vigilant regarding their safety.

Students on placement must familiarise themselves with the host church or organisation's safeguarding policies and procedures.

In the course of their studies, students at the college will address the basic knowledge and understanding of the different types and signs of abuse; a code of safe behaviour for workers; how to implement safeguarding procedures and policies to promote a safe environment and community. Progressing from this to the advanced skills of writing a policy; safe recruitment; support & supervision of workers; roles and responsibilities when responding to concerns as well as contracts for oversight of known offenders.

The College Designated Person for Safeguarding is Siân Hancock.

Revised December 2013