



birkdale baptist church

Child Protection

SAFE PLACES

MAXIMISING OUR MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

The care of all Children is served when we:

- Become better informed about the safety and care of Children and young people
- Work towards reducing the factors which contribute to the harm of Children
- Listen to children, share their joys and sorrows, and support them
- Treat children with the dignity and respect they deserve
- Work to educate, train and support all who care for children
- Take action on suspicions we may have about children who may be at risk, or the inappropriate actions of others toward them
- Introduce standard principles and procedures to protect children from harm, and to protect innocent adults from wrongful accusation

CONTACT

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Information Sheet

Parents

If you are a **parent** details such as your children's allergies, emergency contacts, transport arrangements will be required.

Volunteers

If you **volunteer for children's ministry**, you will be asked to complete some background information and an application for a Queensland Government suitability card. You also will be given the *Guidelines for Children/Youth*.

If you **offer to drive** children other than you own on an organised outing, drivers will be requested to supply details of their driving record and if their vehicle has comprehensive insurance. You also require a Blue card

Reporting Harm

Procedures also cover **reporting harm** or suspected harm to a child.

If you have concerns about a child, leader or incident at any Birkdale Baptist sponsored event please discuss this with the appropriate ministry leader or one of the pastors.

If there is an allegation of harm, Sue Crilley and Ian Parkyn have been appointed as the church's Designated Persons who will initiate a response but not investigate the allegation. The procedure we follow is recommended by the Baptist Union of Queensland.

Sue and Ian have been chosen to be the Designated Persons because they are members of good standing who have an understanding of children and experience of the Child Protection Act through their work as school teachers.



You may wish to peruse the full guidelines designed by the Baptist Union of Queensland in an 88 page document titled [SAFE PLACES: maximising our ministry to children](#) (January 2003) Baptist Youth Ministries of Queensland. Ask the Church Office for a full copy. A couple of extracts follow.

Reporting of harm (from Safe Places)

Any dealings with harm to children will involve a range of emotions for both the leader/helper, the child and others involved. Follow up is usually beyond the ability of most within the local church and the expectation is that those responding will not go beyond their level of training. Regardless of any legal obligation for mandatory reporting, Christians have a moral obligation to report to the appropriate people issues of harm to a child. When responding to harm, it is strongly recommended that a leader/helper not act alone, but discuss the concerns with the Pastor or another Designated Person.

Within 24 hours of disclosure, the Designated Person should complete a Harm Report Form for future reference. If another person has been involved in the initial assessment, they should also be included in the report details and sign the form.

Where you believe the child has been a victim of a crime, then the Designated Person will also contact the Police.

Discipline

Regardless of the child's developmental stage, there are common Principles in disciplining a child that need to be followed.

This is adapted from *Children's Leadership Course*, Scripture Union.

1. Be sure the child understands why the behaviour is wrong
2. Outline choices of positive and negative behaviour
3. Clearly explain the consequences of each choice (both positive and negative)
4. When sharing feelings about misbehaviour do not manipulate, exaggerate or hold them responsible for YOUR feelings
5. Be consistent over time (what is inappropriate today should also be inappropriate tomorrow/yesterday)
6. Be fair and equal with all the children
7. Redirect the child into positive behaviour
8. Give positive reinforcement and praise for correct behaviour
9. Maintain open and honest communication
10. Don't lecture, talk down to, Or threaten children.

As previously mentioned, under no circumstances should a leader or helper, even in fun, use physical punishment.

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Every person, no matter what their age, plays a part in keeping our church and its activities a safe place for children and youth. We encourage you to be active in doing what you can to promote this.



Talk to leaders of children and youth programs if you can see what we can do better.

Thanks for your help.

SAFE PLACES states that :

The purpose of these guidelines is to assist the local church in providing a safe environment in which children can grow and develop; to ensure that if harm occurs it is dealt with appropriately; and to support Queensland Baptist Churches in their efforts to be places of help and healing for those who have suffered harm. (p 1)

