



Bristol Christian Fellowship

Child protection policy:

Good practice guidelines for the prevention of abuse

A. The Leadership Team and Trustees would ask that

1. As far as possible, a worker is not alone with a child or young person of 17 years of age and under, where their activity cannot be seen.
2. When talking with a child or young person, where privacy and confidentiality is important, try to make sure that another adult is aware that the interview is taking place, where and with whom. If possible, there should be another adult in the building and the young person should know that they are there.

B. You, the worker, should ensure that

1. All children and young people are respected; watch your language, both tone of voice and body language.
2. You do not:
 - invade the privacy of children or young people when toileting or showering/bathing following an activity
 - engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games
 - make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child or young person, even in fun
 - inappropriately touch a child or young person
 - scapegoat, ridicule or reject a child or young person
3. You discipline without using any form of physical punishment
4. Another adult is present, if, for example, a child has soiled their underclothes and needs changing.
5. You do not single out, favour or let any child or young person engage you in excessive attention seeking.
6. As far as possible, you do not invite a child or young person to your home on their own; invite in a group and ensure as far as possible that someone else is in the house. If a child or young person asks to talk to you in confidence, be aware of all the above.
7. As far as possible, you do not give lifts to children or young people on their own.
8. If you take children or young people away, as far as possible, you do not share the same sleeping accommodation but if necessary, two adults of the same sex share the sleeping accommodation.
9. If asked whether or not a conversation will be kept confidential, you should explain that if they disclose abuse, confidentiality cannot be maintained. Similarly, if an abused person or an abuser begins to disclose their experience, they must be told immediately that confidentiality cannot be maintained.



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Child protection policy: Procedures if abuse is disclosed or discovered

Bristol Christian Fellowship is committed to the protection of children from physical, sexual or emotional abuse.

Recognising abuse

Types of abuse	What it means	Signs of abuse
Physical	Children or young people's bodies are hurt or injured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> unexplained or hidden injuries failure to seek medical attention.
Sexual	Adults and sometimes other children use children to satisfy their sexual desires by acting or touching inappropriately.	Preoccupation with sexual matters evidenced in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> speech play drawings body language bedwetting attention seeking
Emotional	Children do not receive the love and affection that makes them feel secure, or are given too much responsibility beyond their years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nervousness underachievement attention seeking reversion to younger behaviour
Neglect	Adults fail to care for children or protect them from danger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> withdrawn lingering injuries or health problems looking ill cared for.

What you should do

- Be careful not to jump to conclusions.
- It is **not** your job to investigate.
- If you have any concerns about a child or young person's behaviour or abuse is disclosed then as soon as a session is over or once the conversation has finished immediately make a detailed written note of the behaviour or what was said. Please then send to the office any written record that you have made, signed and dated detailing the date of the session or conversation and the time.
- Report any concerns or suspected abuse to the BCF Child Protection co-ordinators.
- If any child is in immediate danger, call the child care duty social worker at your local social services office or your local police station and ask to speak to a child protection officer.