

BRF Safeguarding Statement

BRF's Safeguarding Statement should be read in conjunction with BRF's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and the Designated Safeguarding Officer and Designated Safeguarding Trustee role descriptions.

The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) is committed to the care, nurture and protection of all the communities it serves. BRF believes that the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is of paramount importance and that, at all times and in all situations, any child, young person or vulnerable adult with whom we are working has the right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that could result in them being harmed or at risk of harm.

BRF is committed to the nurture, protection and safekeeping of all the children, young people and vulnerable adults with whom its staff come into contact. It accepts its responsibility to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and to report any abuse that is suspected or discovered. It undertakes to provide appropriate supervision to ensure the above and recognises mutual accountability.

BRF strives to:

- promote a safer environment and culture for our staff and all they serve;
- safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility for those who are vulnerable;
- respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation;
- care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations;
- respond appropriately to those that may pose a risk to others.

We are aware that different denominations and churches have their own safeguarding policies and procedures. At a local level these are the ones that should be used.

We are aware of the balance between the need to obtain DBS clearance for those in roles that require it and the protection of an individual's privacy. Where a DBS certificate is required, this will be clearly demonstrated in the requirements of the job description.

Context

A child or young person is defined in law as those under 18 years old. A vulnerable adult is 'any adult aged 18 or over who, due to disability, mental function, age, or illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation' (CCPAS, July 2017).

BRF provides resources, training and support for many groups working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, but in most cases BRF is not the responsible body for an event or activity.

When local churches run a Messy Church or Who Let The Dads Out? session, BRF expects them to be the responsible body and to implement the safeguarding policy and procedures from that organisation or denomination. BRF staff may visit a local group to observe and support the work; in this case they will follow the safeguarding policy and procedures of that local group.

The Barnabas in Schools team works in schools which will have a safeguarding policy and procedure, including a section on visitors to the school. Barnabas in Schools team members come under this section. Team members will take their DBS certificate, or number, to the school and present it on arrival. Team members will follow the individual school's safeguarding procedures while working in that school.

The chart below shows the activities that BRF staff may be involved in, who is the responsible body, which safeguarding policy and procedures will be used and what safeguarding measures are in place by BRF where required.

Activity	Context	Responsible body	Safeguarding policy and procedures to be followed	Safeguarding measures in place
Annual or one-off events (e.g. Festival of Prayer)	Events organised by BRF where participants book with BRF	BRF	BRF safeguarding policy and procedures	BRF staff will be briefed on safeguarding and safe working practice relevant to the event
Barnabas in Schools	Team members working in schools with classes of children A member of school staff is expected to be present at all times	BRF (for recruitment) School (for activity on the day)	BRF Barnabas in Schools policy In school, individual school's procedures	All team members have portable DBS

Children and Families	Training/attendance at conferences; when present, children and young people are accompanied by parents or other responsible adult	The organising body, which may not be BRF	BRF safeguarding policy or that of the organising body if not BRF	Staff member requires DBS certificate
The Gift of Years team	Visiting work being done by local chaplaincies Training of Anna Chaplains	BRF	BRF safeguarding policy and procedures	Staff member requires DBS certificate
Anna Chaplains/ The Gift of Years Chaplains	Work with senior adults in a local church, home or care home context	The local church or denomination	Policy and procedures adopted by the local church group that have deployed the chaplain	Local leaders advised to follow the guidance of the responsible church
Messy Church team and Regional Coordinators	Visiting work being done by local Messy Churches Training/attendance at conferences; When present, children and young people are accompanied by parents or other responsible adult	The organising body, which may not be BRF	BRF safeguarding policy or that of the organising body if not BRF	Staff members/volunteer Regional Coordinators require DBS certificate
Messy Churches	Church for all ages; children and young people accompanied by parents or other responsible adult	The local church or denomination	The local church or denomination	Local leaders advised to follow the guidance of the responsible church
Parenting for Faith	Training/attendance at conferences; when present, children and young people are accompanied by parents or other responsible adult	The organising body, which may not be BRF	BRF safeguarding policy or that of the organising body if not BRF	Staff members require DBS certificate

Who Let The Dads Out? team and Regional Representatives	Visiting work done by local Who Let The Dads Out? groups Training/attendance at conferences; when present, children and young people are accompanied by parents or other responsible adult	The organising body, which may not be BRF	BRF safeguarding policy or that of the organising body if not BRF	Staff members/volunteer Regional Representatives require DBS certificate
Who Let The Dads Out? groups	Children and young people accompanied by parents or other responsible adult	The local church or denomination	The local church or denomination	Local leaders advised to follow the guidance of the responsible church

Photography

We will not use photographs or film of children, young people or vulnerable adults without consent. In the case of photography or filming at events, the consent of participants will be sought. If consent is not given, BRF will make every effort to ensure that the individual(s) concerned is not photographed or filmed and will not use any photograph or footage that inadvertently includes that individual(s).

Fundraising

BRF seeks to act responsibly in our communications with supporters and donors. In our approach to potential donors we will never subject anyone to pressure or a 'hard sell' but always treat individuals with dignity, integrity and respect. We are aware that some of our donors may be older, potentially vulnerable adults. BRF has guidance for staff on identifying vulnerable older donors and how to work with them in a way that maintains their dignity.

Approved by BRF's trustees 5 October 2017

Reviewed January 2018