

# 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.

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. A DBS certificate will only be required where the need for this is clearly demonstrated in the job or role 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 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 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
Anna Chaplaincy team	Visiting work being done by local chaplaincies Training of Anna Chaplains	BRF	BRF safeguarding policy and procedures	All team members involved in meeting local chaplaincies and training Anna Chaplains are DBS checked (basic) and are subject to safer recruitment procedures
Anna Chaplaincy freelance trainers	Training local churches in Parenting for Faith	The local church, denomination or organising body	The local church, denomination or organising body	Parenting for Faith freelance trainers require a basic DBS

	When present, children and young people are accompanied by parents or other responsible adult			check as this is a position of trust
Anna Chaplains (and those in equivalent roles who are part of the Anna Chaplaincy network)	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	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	All team members are DBS checked (basic) and are subject to safer recruitment procedures
Messy Church volunteers	Promote Messy Church within their region Offer support to newly registered Messy Churches Provide online training to Messy Church teams The purpose of the role is not to visit churches and/or work with children or vulnerable adults	If invited to visit a Messy Church – the local church or denomination	The local church or denomination	If a Messy Church volunteer is invited into a church as a guest, they are advised to follow the local church's safeguarding policy & procedure
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	All team members are DBS checked (basic) and are subject to safer recruitment procedures
Parenting for Faith freelance trainers	Training local churches in Parenting for Faith When present, children and young people are accompanied by parents or other responsible adult	The local church, denomination or organising body	The local church, denomination or organising body	Parenting for Faith freelance trainers require a basic DBS check as this is a position of trust
Trustees	All Trustees of charities that work with children and/or vulnerable adults must be DBS checked	BRF	BRF safeguarding policy and procedures	All Trustees are DBS checked (enhanced) as they are trustees for a charity working with children, young people and vulnerable adults

## 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.

## **Training**

All BRF employees, freelancers, volunteers and Trustees are required to read the Safeguarding Policy and Procedure and the Safeguarding Statement as part of their induction and then again annually. The documents are stored centrally on the BRF network and on the BRF website so they can be accessed at any time.

People in roles that are deemed to hold a position of trust (whether paid or voluntary) are required to complete basic safeguarding training online. The training should be repeated every 3 years.

Ministry teams and those who come into contact with users and beneficiaries of BRF's ministries as part of their role complete safeguarding case study and scenario training every 12 months.

## **Checks and declarations**

- Any role which involves regulated activities is subject to an enhanced DBS check.
- All Trustees are subject to an enhanced DBS check as per Charity Commission guidance that trustees of charities working with children, young people and vulnerable adults should be.
- Any role that is deemed to hold a position of trust requires a declaration of suitability to be completed and a basic DBS check carried out.

For an up to date list of which roles this includes, please contact the Head of People

*Approved by BRF's trustees 5 October 2017*

*Updated September 2023*