



Safeguarding Statement

This safeguarding statement pertains to the work of Space2BU, a Renew Wellbeing Space for young people at Arbury Road Baptist Church. The aims of Space2BU are to provide young people with time and space to be themselves, explore wellbeing, and develop supportive relationships within a safe and caring community. Our Biblical inspiration comes from Psalm 31 verse 8, which speaks of God placing our feet in a spacious place, where we are able to experience the peace, security and abundance which God intends for us.

The Space2BU team recognise our responsibilities in safeguarding all children and young people, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to operating according to the safeguarding policy of Arbury Road Baptist Church, and the further guidance of the Baptist Union, both of which can be found at: <https://www.arburyroadbaptist.org/safeguarding>

As well as fully adopting the safeguarding policy of Arbury Road Baptist Church, we commit ourselves to operating according to the following protocols:

Group values and behaviour

For the smooth running of the group, and for everyone's safety and wellbeing, we ask that all participants respect our group values:

Welcome - everyone is welcome, without judgement. This is a place where we don't have to pretend.

Safety – please respect each other by not repeating anyone else's stories without permission*.

Choice - everyone can choose which activities they want to take part in, and when they wish to come and go.

Community – this is a place for building supportive friendships. We aim that no-one dominates, and no-one is left out.

Kindness – we think of one another, and seek to build each other up through our words and actions.

Presence - we are present for one another, in the present moment, with quiet compassion.

*The only time the Space2BU team would need to pass on something that was said in the group would be if they believe a young person may be at risk of harm. In this case, team members would always discuss this with the young person concerned before contacting parents or appropriate professionals.

In the event that a young person's behaviour is not in line with the group values, a team member will speak to the young person about our expectations. If behaviour is persistently unacceptable, a young person may be asked to leave the session. We would usually attempt to communicate this to a parent or guardian, by email, text message or phone call.

Consent and participation

This is a drop-in group, and it is expected that many young people will travel to and from the group independently. If parents wish to drop off and pick up their child, and are not happy for their child to leave unaccompanied, we ask that they notify the Space2BU team.

As participating young people will be under 16, we ask that they obtain the consent of a parent or guardian to take part in Space2BU. On a first visit, young people will be asked to provide a contact phone number, and will be given a consent form to take home for a parent or guardian to sign and return the next time they attend the group. If written consent is not received, the Space2BU team will seek to contact the parent or guardian to obtain verbal consent.

Young people may choose whether to come to Space2BU, and may arrive and leave as they wish within the opening times. The Space2BU team will not follow up non-attendance, or inform parents that children have left, unless a specific arrangement has been made in advance. If parents wish to contact the Space2BU team during our Monday afternoon sessions, phone numbers are available in the welcome information and on the website.

Communication Protocol

We request that a parent or guardian's phone number and/or email address is given for each participating young person. This enables us to make contact in the case of an emergency, and also to communicate information such as holiday dates, unexpected closures etc. We may sometimes (with consent) communicate other information such as invitations to relevant activities run by local groups or churches. Optionally, young people may give us their own phone number and/or email address, in order to receive the same information.

We welcome young people or parents/guardians contacting the Space2BU team for information about the group, to share ideas or to raise any concerns. Email and phone contact details are available in our welcome pack and online. The Space2BU team will respond within working hours, though we cannot guarantee to get back to you the same day. In the event that a young person or their family requires urgent health care information or support, please see our guidance for who to contact in an emergency.

Our team members will ensure that all communication with young people is polite and respectful, empowering and has a clear purpose. Adults should be mindful of appropriate boundaries, and seek to avoid any ambiguities in the language they use when communicating with young people. Communication between young people and team members for purely social purposes is not encouraged. Team members should not become 'friends' with young people on social media, or make arrangements to meet outside of the group. Team members should keep any texts or emails, and be ready to share these with the team if any concerns or complexities arise.

What to do if you have any concerns about a young person's safety or wellbeing

In the first instance contact Kimberley Rayson on 07551 430277. Kimberley is safeguarding lead for Space2BU and part of Arbury Road Baptist Church safeguarding team. If Kimberley Rayson is unavailable, or is implicated in the concern, please contact Ian Farr (Designated Person for Safeguarding), of Rev Matt Rowe.

KIMBERLEY RAYSON, Named person for Safeguarding in Space2BU

Phone number: 07551 430277 Email address:
kimberley@arburyroadbaptist.org

IAN FARR, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) Arbury Road Baptist Church

Phone number: 07592 486198 Email address: ian.farr1@ntlworld.com

MATT ROWE, Church Minister

Phone number: 01223 565577 Email address: matt@arburyroadbaptist.org

This statement has been written in March 2023 by Kimberley Rayson, with regard to Baptist Union guidance and in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy of Arbury Road Baptist Church. It will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.