

WRBC Health and Safety Policy

Walsworth Road Baptist Church (WRBC) recognises and accepts its responsibility to provide, so far as is reasonably practicable, a safe and healthy environment for anyone using the church premises (see Section A).

At the same time WRBC expects all users of the church premises to understand that they have a responsibility to themselves and others to ensure a safe and healthy environment and to comply fully with the requirements as laid out in Section B of this policy.

Section A

Overall responsibility and implementation of this Health and Safety Policy have been placed with the WRBC Deacons, a Health and Safety Advisor and the Health & Safety Officer. The Deacons may appoint other persons to be responsible for the daily implementation of all or part of the Policy. Copies of this policy are displayed on church notice boards.

1. The Deacons undertake to take all necessary steps within their power to ensure:

- a. as far as is reasonably practicable, the maintenance of the church premises in a safe condition without risk to health and that access and egress are safe and without risk.
- b. that furnishings and equipment are, as far as reasonably practicable, kept in a safe condition and without risk to health.
- c. that risk assessments are carried out as necessary by all who use the church premises. This is essential when flammable items are being considered for use.
- d. the safety and minimising of risks to health in connection with the use, handling, storage and transport of articles, equipment, furniture and substances.
- e. the health and safety of all who use or visit the church, as far as reasonably practicable, through provision of such information, instruction, training and supervision as considered necessary.
- f. all appropriate users are advised of any changes to this policy.

2. In addition the Deacons will ensure that:

- a. appropriate risk assessments of the premises and church activities are carried out annually and any recommended actions taken as soon as reasonably practicable. The Health and Safety Officer will undertake the risk assessment for use of any flammable items and materials, e.g. candles.
- b. all fire equipment, including alarms, is tested by an approved and competent person and that all group leaders and church officers are familiar with the fire alarm and emergency exit procedure.
- c. an evacuation procedure is put in place, tested at least annually, and revised as necessary.

- d. all electrical wiring is checked by an approved and qualified person at least every five years.
- e. all portable electrical equipment on site is safety tested by an approved and qualified person on a regular basis as required by the relevant authority.
- f. the relevant food safety legislation and regulations are complied with.
- g. where necessary, all relevant safety regulations are prominently displayed, and all emergency procedure notices are properly exhibited and visible in each area.
- h. access to and from emergency exits and fire equipment is not impaired, and that corridors and stairs are always kept clear of obstructions.
- i. accidents are investigated, and measures taken to prevent their recurrence. If appropriate, accidents should be reported to the local Environmental Health Agency in accordance with RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations). WRBC will also ensure that appropriate arrangements are made to provide for first aid.
- j. a COSHH assessment is recorded for each hazardous substance stored or used on the premises, including cleaning materials. Hazardous substances must be stored appropriately in accordance with COSHH procedures.
- k. external contractors undertaking any work on the site comply with all current health, safety and other legislation and that this requirement is included in all agreements and contracts. Before undertaking any such work, contractors will be expected to provide a written plan of action to ensure that the health and safety of their workers and other site users is not compromised.

Section B

1. All users of the premises must:

- a. at all times take reasonable care of their own health and safety and the health and safety of others.
- b. ensure that they do not recklessly interfere with anything provided in the interest of health and safety nor allow any other person to do so because of the possible consequences.
- c. observe all safety rules, procedures and codes of practice at all times and ensure that they are familiar with the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire or other emergency.
- d. conform to basic food safety and hygiene regulations. A copy of the regulations "Making Food Safe" can be found in the ground floor church kitchen.
- e. ensure that storage and transport of articles and substances is safe and without risk to the health and safety of all users. Under no circumstances may flammable mixtures, liquefied petroleum gas or explosive substances be stored in the church building. Any hazardous substances, including cleaning materials, may only be stored as stipulated above.

- f. co-operate with the church to enable it to carry out the duties and requirements under Health and Safety legislation, including participating in any training if called upon to do so.
- g. appoint first aiders to support activities as appropriate. All accidents, hazards or dangerous occurrences must be reported as soon as is reasonably practicable whether persons are injured or not. A first aid kit and accident report book are located in the ground floor church kitchen.
- h. make sure that all equipment and materials used are in a safe and serviceable condition. Cables, wires or other items must not create a hazard which may result in a trip, fall, electric shock or fire.
- i. make sure the use of ladders is in accordance with HSE guidelines and that all ladders are returned to their designated storage place.
- j. ensure that all children and young people in their charge are properly supervised at all times with due regard for the health and safety of all those using the premises.

For the protection of children, young people, and adults at risk, WRBC requires the church family and those working with children, young people, or adults at risk on WRBC premises to comply with the church's Safeguarding Policy. The Safeguarding Policy Statement will be displayed on the church notice board in the entrance area and the full Safeguarding Policy can be found on the church website.

This policy statement was adopted by a resolution of a Church Members' Meeting held in May 2023.

Date for next Review: May 2026