



Safeguarding Guide England and Wales

Church responsibility

New teams must receive core training through approved trainers or via our online training. We recommend that Storytellers attend their denomination's Safeguarding training and a session with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), or Designated Senior Person (DSP). New Team Leaders should contact OtB for support and advice. Storytellers should, where possible, attend a local training event annually which will include a safeguarding update, and remain up to date with their church's safeguarding policy.

Team Leaders should ensure that all safeguarding matters, relevant policies and procedures and the Safeguarding Code of Conduct are discussed with their teams once a year. This will ensure everyone is up to date and aware of how to deal with any safeguarding concerns with respect to children or volunteers.

All Storytellers should conduct themselves in accordance with the reasonable expectations of someone who represents the church. Volunteer Storytellers delivering OtB assemblies/acts of collective worship should not be left with children on their own. School staff should always be present at each assembly/act of collective worship.



**My Church/Denominational
Safeguarding Officer contact:**

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Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG | bible@biblesociety.org.uk | Registered charity 232759 | FR000727

Storyteller

Name:

DBS no: _____

Date of DBS check: _____

My DBS info

Policy statement

(see Policy Manual Section 3)
Bible Society/Open the Book (OtB) believe that all human beings are of equal worth in the sight of God and aim to follow biblical principles in all that we do.

Safe recruitment

Bible Society requires churches to recruit Storytellers as church volunteers before attending any school in that role. Storytellers are eligible to have an Enhanced DBS (without a check of the barred list) done as part of their church's 'safe recruitment' process.



(DSL) Designated Safeguarding Lead in England or (DSP) Designated Senior Person in Wales.

School name: _____

DSL/DSP: _____

School tel no: _____

School name: _____

DSL/DSP: _____

School tel no: _____

School name: _____

DSL/DSP: _____

School tel no: _____

Code of Conduct

1. Treat all children with respect and dignity.
2. Share concerns about a child or other Storytellers with the relevant safeguarding person.
3. Never be alone with a child in school.
4. There should be minimal physical contact with children during an assembly/act of collective worship.
5. Obtain consent for any photographs or videos before you take them. For the full Code of Conduct go to openthebook.net

Code of Practice

(See Safeguarding Policy Section)

All Storytellers agree to:

- Stick to the script and present the story simply, without addition or deviation, following the guidelines in the Open the Book *Handbook*
- Allow each story to speak for itself, as a Bible story, not as a sermon
- Liaise closely and sensitively with schools, and be mindful of the educational environment
- Be aware that they are invited guests and make minimal demands on schools
- Show respect and sensitivity to those of other faiths, and to those with none
- Fulfil the relevant safeguarding requirements
- Uphold the copyright of Open the Book material

Storytellers must be accompanied by members of staff during all assemblies/acts of collective worship.

What to do if you have a safeguarding concern about:

A child

Speak to the school's DSL (England) or DSP (Wales)

Another Storyteller

Speak to the relevant Church/Denominational Safeguarding Officer and notify the Human Resources Manager at Bible Society

An adult working in the school

Speak to the school's DSL (England) or DSP (Wales)

A Bible Society employee

Speak to Bible Society's Human Resources Manager