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## **Greenford Baptist Church Children's Ministry Vision**

### **Vision Statement**

The Children's Ministry will be a place where,

#### **The leaders will:**

- be trained
- be supported
- pray and be prayed for
- The children will: feel loved
- learn about God
- see God at work
- experience God in their lives
- We need to increase our expectations of children in their relationship with God.

### **Basic Beliefs**

"Repent and be baptised everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call" Acts 2:38 and 39

### **We believe that:**

- children can be born again
- children are an equal part of the family of God
- God can give children spiritual gifts and enable them to use them
- children can be given responsibilities
- children can be challenged to live out their faith
- children need more than just Bible stories they need to know the relevance and application to their lives
- parents and the home should be the main faith learning ground for children of Christian parents
- children in church need to be taught/cared for in church by people:-
  1. with a calling to do so
  2. who love and respect children



3. who receive training and support to do so to the best of their God given ability

“If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.” Matthew 18 v.6

- children should be ‘safe to grow’ i.e. protected from harmful influences and abuse – mental, physical, sexual, neglectful and spiritual.

## **Characteristics of the Children’s Ministry**

### **Children**

“From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger” Psalms 8:2

- to feel loved and cared for and treated equally
- to enjoy themselves at church activities and want to come
- to learn about God
- to provide an environment where children can make a commitment to God and be supported having done so
- for them to know how to live out their faith
- for both the children and adults to expect God to use the children for His Glory

### **Children’s Ministry Co-ordinator/Group**

- to have a vision of what God wants for the children’s work and share that with others
- to support the children’s workers
- to assist with recruitment and organisation of leaders, meetings, training
- to pray regularly for the leaders and children
- to be supported and prayed for by Leadership Team and church family

### **Leaders/Helpers**

“Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it” Proverbs 22:6

- to love children and to know a sense of having been called by God
- to be trained to meet the children’s needs



- to be supported by each other and by the church family
- to have completed the 'safe to grow' policy
- to pray for the children's needs

### **Parents**

"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" Deuteronomy 6:6 and 7

- to recognise their responsibility for their children's spiritual welfare
- where possible to be an integral part of the church's work with children
- to seek for them to be involved in groups either on a one off basis or more regularly

### **Church**

"Jesus said 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'" Matthew 19:14

- to support in prayer and practical ways the children and their leaders
- to enable the children to be included in, and an integral part of, all God is doing within our church