

Volunteer Agreement

I will help the Circuit fulfil its vision to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission;

To perform my volunteering role to the best of my ability;

To follow the Church's procedures and standards, including health and safety procedures and its equal opportunities policy in relation to its staff, volunteers and anybody they work with;

To maintain the confidential information of the Church and of all who become involved with it;

To meet the time commitments and standards undertaken, other than in exceptional circumstances, and provide reasonable notice so that alternative arrangement can be made;

Further Information and Contacts

Church Safeguarding Officer

Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Regional Safeguarding Officer

Carolyn Godfrey
07534 346374
newcastle.darlington@dso.methodist.org.uk

For Full Policy and Guidance see— [Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church](http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/2660915/Methodist%20Safeguarding%20Policy%20Procedures%20and%20Guidance%202017.pdf)
www.methodist.org.uk/media/2660915/Methodist%20Safeguarding%20Policy%20Procedures%20and%20Guidance%202017.pdf 0



Working with Children, Young People

The aim of safeguarding within the Church is to create safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

Critical to good safeguarding is safer recruitment and safer working practices. The Church has developed procedures for both these areas, informed by legislation and government guidance. As such, we aim to:

- carefully select and train all those with responsibility within the Church in line with safer recruitment principles
- ensure that any church activities are organised in such a way to avoid the risk of harm to everyone participating
- promote safe spaces that are inclusive and welcoming



Best Practice

Recruitment

Before taking up a role — all volunteers should

- Be recruited in line with the Safer Recruitment policy
- Have a role description
- Know who they are accountable to
- Have completed a Confidential Disclosure
- Have completed the form As
- To have a DBS check, if eligible
- Have completed the Creating Safer Space Foundation Module within 6 months of taking up the post.
- Effective supervision should be in place for all volunteers

Problem?

Make sure you know who to talk to if you have a concern.

Log any accidents or incidents

If in doubt - always seek advice

Photos & Social Media

Consent should be gained from parents/carers or individuals. These should be reviewed annually.

Parents helping in a group should not share pictures on social media without permission, even in closed groups.

Parents helping in a group should not take photos of other children without the permission of the child's parents .

No personal details should be shared on social media.

No names, addresses, phone numbers should be shared on social media, even if they are available in church notice sheets or the plan.

Group or organisational social media accounts should have more than one administrator.

Ensure all electronic communications are appropriate and professional.

Don't make any relationship with a child (other than family members) through a social networking site.

Children and young people should be regularly informed and reminded of safe Internet use and accessing social media. They must be encouraged to access websites such as ThinkUknow, NSPCC or Childline or talk to an adult if they have any concerns or fears

Ratios

The following are the adult to child ratios recommended—the needs of individual children should be taken into account. It is recommended that there should be at least one male and one female.

0 – 2 years - 1 adult to 3 children

2 – 3 years - 1 adult to 4 children

4 – 8 years - 1 adult to 6 children

9 – 12 years - 1 adult to 8 children

13 – 18 years - 1 adult to 10 children

Consider your hat...

If you are acting in a role for the Methodist Church, then policies and procedures should be adhered to. This becomes confusing when you wear several hats and you have other relationships with people you come into contact in that role.

- are you visiting as pastoral visitor or a friend?

- are you acting as a parent in a group or a leader?

- Are you giving someone a lift because of your Church role?

- Which hat are you wearing?

Eyes Open

If you see an issue—tell someone. Don't assume someone else will. This could be for everything from a broken table or a concern about a child or vulnerable adult.