



# Wesley Methodist Church

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**Our Mission: TO LOVE GOD, FOLLOW JESUS, AND SERVE OUR NEIGHBOUR**

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## **SAFEGUARDING - Policy Statement**

**It is the policy of the Methodist Church (ref. Standing Order 010) that:**

- No person who has been convicted of or has received a formal police caution concerning an offence against children as listed in the First Schedule for the Children and Young Person's Act 1933 shall work with children or young people in the life of the Church;
- No person who has been convicted of or has received a formal police caution concerning sexual offences against children and young people shall be appointed to certain offices in the life of the Church.

**In order to comply with this policy, it is necessary for:**

- All who work with children and young people under the age of 18 to complete Safeguarding Form A and to observe good practice in their work;
- All ministers, deacons and local preachers to complete Safeguarding Form B and to observe good practice in their work;
- All members of the Church Council and all those involved in the new disciplinary procedures of the Methodist Church to complete Safeguarding Form B and to observe good practice in their work
- All reasonable care to be taken by those responsible to ensure that persons who have been convicted of or have received a formal police caution concerning sexual offences against children or young people shall not undertake work in the Methodist Church as listed below:
  - Any duty or responsibility exercised on behalf of the Methodist Church which involves
    - lone access to church premises
    - face to face contact with children or young people without the presence of another adult
    - carrying out duties off church premises in circumstances in which the person concerned may be seen as a representative of the church
  - Any office within the following categories:
    - **Representational** – including membership of the Church Council, Circuit Meeting, District Synod, Methodist Council or Methodist Conference;
    - **Pastoral** – including Local Preachers, Worship or Choir leaders, Organists, Pastoral visitors, Stewards, Workers with children and young people

## **Summary of Guidelines from Home Office Code of Practice 'SAFE FROM HARM'**

- Adopt a policy statement on safeguarding the welfare of children
- Plan the work of the organisation to minimise situations where the abuse of children may occur
- Introduce a system whereby children may talk with an independent person
- Apply agreed procedures for protecting children to all paid staff and volunteers
- Give all paid staff and volunteers clear roles
- Use supervision as a means of protecting children
- Treat all would-be paid staff and volunteers as job applicants for any position involving contact with children
- Gain at least one reference from a person who has experience of the applicants paid work or volunteering with children
- Explore all applicants experience of working or contact with children in an interview before appointment
- Find out whether any applicant has any convictions for criminal offences against children
- Make paid and voluntary appointments conditional on the successful completion of a probationary period
- Issue guidelines on how to deal with the disclosure or discovery of abuse
- Train paid staff and volunteers, their line managers or supervisors, and policy makers in the prevention of child abuse

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**A full copy of our Child Protection Policy is available for inspection on request**

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