

Safeguarding Policy for a Church Currently without children

This updated policy statement was agreed at a Church Council Meeting held on *insert date*. It will be displayed as a notice in the Church, and will be reviewed at least annually by the Church Council.

- *Name of Methodist Church* is committed to following the Home Office Code of Practice *Safe From Harm*, and adopts its guidelines and procedures as implemented by The Methodist Church from time to time. This will include the requirement that those holding office or responsibility in the Church, or using its premises, shall complete such declarations and procedures as may from time to time be required.
- **However, the work with and the safeguarding of children and young people is the responsibility of the whole Church and of those who use its premises.**
- This means that we commit ourselves to the nurture, protection and safeguarding of all people, and especially of children and young people. We will respect children and young people, and listen to their needs, wishes and feelings. We will endeavour to ensure, as good practice, that we are never on the premises alone with a child or young person, that we speak and behave towards them appropriately; and that we ensure the church is a safe place for them.
- It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect of children and young people. We will share any concern the welfare of a child or any suspected or discovered abuse with those appointed by the Church Council to receive such concerns, namely *insert names*. There are appropriate ways of responding to such concerns or the situations in which they arise, and these can be discussed with *insert names*, and, as appropriate, referred to Social Services.

Acknowledgement: thanks to Revd. James Tebbutt