



Cole Street Methodist Church Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy

Darby End, Netherton, Dudley, DY2 9PA
part of the Dudley & Netherton Methodist Church Circuit

Appendix B – Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

This Policy was agreed at the Church Council held on Tuesday 7th February 2017 and should be read in conjunction with the **Methodist Safeguarding Handbook (2010)**.

The Purpose of this Safeguarding Policy is to ensure Procedures are put in place and people are clear about their Roles and Responsibilities in working with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults in our care.

This Policy addresses the Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults with the intention to support the Church in being a Safe, Supportive and Caring Community for ALL including those affected by Abuse including Survivors.

Cole Street Methodist Church appoints **Mrs. Wendy Goodwin** as **Church Safeguarding Officer** and supports her role which is to:

- Support and Advise the Minister and Stewards in fulfilling their roles
- Provide a Point of Reference to advise on Safeguarding Issues
- Liaise with Circuit and District Safeguarding Coordinators
- Promote Safeguarding Best Practice within the Local Church with the support of Circuit Ministers

Cole Street Methodist Church is committed to the Safeguarding and Protection of all Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults and affirms that the needs of children, young people or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.

Cole Street Methodist Church recognises that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations, by disabilities or by reduction in capacities. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

Cole Street Methodist Church recognises the serious issue of the abuse of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults and recognises that this may take the form of Physical, Emotional, Sexual, Financial or Material, Discriminatory, Spiritual, Institutional, Domestic or Abuse using Social Media and Neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people including their Spiritual and Religious Development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

Cole Street Methodist Church commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a Child, Young Person or Vulnerable Adult may have been harmed, whether in the Church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the Abuse of Power of anyone in a Position of Trust.

Cole Street Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; Government Legislation and Guidance of Safe Practice in the Circuit and within our Churches.

Cole Street Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for Lay and Ordained People that will ensure people are clear and confident about their Roles and Responsibilities in Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

Cole Street Methodist Church affirms and give thanks for the work of those who are workers with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults and acknowledges the shared responsibility of all of us for Safeguarding them whilst on our premises.

Appendix B – Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

Good Practice

We believe “*good practice*” means that:

- All people are treated with respect and dignity
- Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a Child, Young Person or Vulnerable Adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for Pastoral reasons, in which case a written note of this will be made and kept noting date, time and place of visit
- The Church Premises will be assessed for Safety for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults and the Risk Assessment Report will be given annually to the Church Council in written form. This will include Fire Safety Procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable
- Any Church organised transport of Children, Young Person or Vulnerable Adults will be checked to ensure the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the Driver and Escort are appropriate
- Promotion of Safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God’s people to reach their full potential. The Church Council will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.

Appointment & Training of Workers

Workers will be appointed after a satisfactory DBS Disclosure is obtained. Each worker will be expected to undergo “*Creating Safer Space Training*” within the first year of appointment and thereafter attend a Refresher Course every 4 years, along with the Renewal of DBS Checks. Other training needs of each worker will be considered and undertaken when and where appropriate. New appointments to positions will be undertaken in line with Safer Recruitment Guidelines.

Pastoral Visitors

In terms of Safeguarding, Pastoral Visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of “*Creating Safer Space Training*” and are required to keep written records of visits they undertake on behalf of the Church.

Guidelines for Working with Children, Young People & Vulnerable Adults

A “*Reference Card*” will be given to all those who work with Children, Young People or Vulnerable Adults.

Ecumenical Events

Where Ecumenical Events take place on Church Premises, Safeguarding is the Responsibility of the Church Council.

Events with Church Group off Premises

Adequate staffing will be ensured for such events. Notification of the event will be given to **Mrs. Wendy Goodwin, Church Safeguarding Officer.**

Other Groups on Church Premises

Where the building is hired for outside use, the person signing the “*Letting Agreement*” will be given a copy of this Policy, along with “*Safeguarding Form E*” and a “*Reference Card*”. The Church Council will consider the various users of the building before agreeing to the “*Lettings*”.

Complaints

It is hoped that complaints can generally be dealt with internally by the Church. If the complaint cannot be resolved, consideration will be given to involving the complaints system of the Methodist Church

Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council. The date of the next review is **February 2018.**

SignedRev. C. Wickens.....

(Chair of Church Council) Dated07/02/2017.....