

Wharfedale and Aireborough Methodist Circuit

Online Safety and Photography Policy / Social Media Policy

The Church recognises that for many children and young people using the internet is a regular part of their lives and has a significant impact on their social development. In accordance with the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy we will take all possible steps to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from significant harm or risk when using the internet or any other form of technology.

These steps will include:

1. Permitting photography/video at church/Circuit events only with the agreement of the person being photographed, or in the case of a child/young person with the permission of a parent or guardian.
2. Allowing photography/video for church/Circuit purposes only by persons authorised by the safeguarding co-ordinator and minister and then kept only on a church computer or securely stored as agreed by the safeguarding co-ordinator and minister. At Circuit events making an announcement that the Circuit's Social Media and Photography Policy must be adhered to.
3. Not permitting identifiable photographs/video of children/young people taken for church purposes to be uploaded on social media or of adults without their consent.
4. Using traceable (and preferably group) electronic means of communication between adults and children/young people in the church context only with the consent of a parent or guardian.
5. When in a Youth Leadership role: not permitting a young person to sign on to a personal account held by the Youth Leader (such as Facebook) or to have access to any such accounts held by a young person.
6. Communicating on the internet in a manner which is respectful, transparent and relevant.

The Methodist Church Children and Youth Social Media and Communications Guidance for Churches should be read alongside the above guidelines and can be found at:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/17148/children-and-youth-social-media-guidance-060520.pdf>

This document provides more detailed guidance on:

- The safer use of Social Media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube and others
- Consent Forms and DBS requirements for online forums
- Appropriate friending or following on networking sites
- Use of photography and video and the storage of images

Zoom

Guidance for good practice when using Zoom can be found at:

The Methodist Church Zoom How to use Zoom safely and with integrity

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/guidance-for-churches/digital-communication-guidance-for-churches/zoom-for-churches/how-to-use-zoom-safely-and-with-integrity/>

This policy was agreed at the Wharfedale and Aireborough Circuit meeting on
15 / 09 / 2021

Signed.....(Chair of meeting)