

Appendix 1

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 and young people 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 events only with the agreement of each child/young person and permission of a parent or guardian.
2. Allowing photography/video for church 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.
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.

Note:

The use of electronic means of communication is constantly changing and developing. Further details on Photography Policy and Online Safety can be found at:

Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church Section 6 (Procedures for Photographers at Church Events / Safeguarding and the Internet)

Also at:

www.methodist.org.uk/socialmediaguidelines

This policy was agreed at the Wharfedale and Aireborough Circuit meeting on
16 / 09 / 2020

Signed.....(Chair of meeting)