

The King's Cross Church, Doncaster

Safeguarding Policy for Children and Adults for

The King's Cross Church.

This policy was agreed at a Church Council held on 11th December 2017. The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

- The King's Cross Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, adults and young people and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.
- The King's Cross 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.
- This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, adults and young people. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.
- The King's Cross Church fully agrees with the Connexional statement reiterated in Creating Safer Space 2007:
- As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of every individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

- The King's Cross Church recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children, young people and adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development including 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.
- The King's Cross Church commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child, adult or young person 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.
- The King's Cross Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.
- The King's Cross 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 and adults who may be vulnerable.
- The King's Cross Church affirms and gives thanks for the work of those who are workers with children, adults and young people and acknowledges the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding children, adults and young people who are on our premises.

Safeguarding officers

The Doncaster Circuit appoints Barry Parker as Safeguarding Coordinator. TKCC appoints Carol Bennett and Caroline Potter as Safeguarding Representatives and supports them in their role which is to:

- support and advise the minister and the 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.
- ensure that DBS checks are completed where necessary
- ensure information about leaders working with children/adults are kept confidential and secure
- support the circuit in ensuring safeguarding training is delivered and up to date, where and when necessary
- keep written records of concerns about children, young people and adults brought to their attention even if there is no need to make an immediate referral to the appropriate authority

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, adults and young people, 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, adults or young people 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.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, adults and young people.

Roles and Responsibilities of Church Council

The King's Cross church council will ensure that every member of the church and person taking part in any activity linked with the church will:

- Know the names of the designated people appointed as the safeguarding officers and the Minister
- Review the safeguarding policy every three years and discuss any changes or additions needed to it at the first meeting of the Church calendar year.
- Will have an individual responsibility to refer safeguarding concerns
- Ensure they attend the 'Creating Safer Space' and their training is up to date
- Knows their duty concerning unsafe practices regarding children young people and adults and by others within the church and visitors
- The designated person will disclose any information about a child, young person or adult to other members of the church council on a need to know basis

Appointment and Training of Workers

Individuals who work with children, adults and young people will be assessed to see whether a DBS check is necessary for their role. The level of DBS check needed will be decided on an individual basis according to *The Methodist Church in Britain Practice Guidance on carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks as part of Safer Recruitment for England and Wales – August 2015*

- Appointment of a worker will only be confirmed after a satisfactory DBS disclosure and the agreement to complete the appropriate level of safeguarding training has been obtained.

Events with other churches

- Where events with other churches take place on The King's Cross Church premises, safeguarding must be discussed at meetings prior to the event, to ensure leaders of the event have the appropriate level of DBS.

Events with church groups off the premises

Level of DBS check for the leader will depend on their role and responsibility during the event.

- If children, young people or clearly vulnerable adults are without parents or support workers at the event, then the appropriate level of DBS must be held.
- If parents, carers or support workers are present throughout the event, and stay with their children/young person/vulnerable adult throughout then the appropriate level of DBS check is only needed by the event leaders not by TKCC support/workers

Transportation of children, young people and adults

- If the church has been approached by the parents of children or young people, or carers of more vulnerable adults to help with transportation to an event or church without the parent or carer being present, then an appropriate level of DBS must be held by the driver.
- If another parent is approached to help with transport to an event without the parent or carer being present it will be regarded as a private arrangement. Children and young people must only be transported in this private arrangement if the families socialise regularly with each other and the leader of the event is happy with the arrangement. The church council has no responsibility for this arrangement.
- In the event when a child or young person needs to be transported home after an event and initial arrangements need to be changed the parent of the child / young person must be contacted beforehand to agree with the new arrangement.
- When using hired transport a reputable hire company must be used and appropriate documentation obtained beforehand to ensure transport is checked regularly.

Risk assessments off the premises

- If visiting a place where there can be risks including physical activities or animals, the leader must acquire the risk assessment for the venue before the visit to ensure they and helpers are clear of any dangers and risks. A risk assessment for the whole visit can then be created by the leader. This will only be applicable when parents and carers are not present. When parents

and carers are present then they are responsible for their children / young people.

Record keeping

The designated people will have access to personal information for the people involved in working with groups of and individual children, adults and vulnerable adults. This will include personal data and DBS information.

Complaints procedure

It is hoped that complaints can generally be dealt with internally by the organisations. However, a complaint may be made to a person who will be appointed by the Church Council and who is currently Rev. Jon Bellfield [2017]. If a complaint is made to another person, it should be passed to Rev. Jon Bellfield, who will arrange to meet with the complainant and attempt to resolve the complaint. If the complaint cannot be resolved, consideration will be given to invoking the complaints system of the Methodist Church which will involve initially speaking with the Local Complaints Officer who is Rev. Tom Read.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years, by the Church Council. The date of the next review is September 2020

Dated

Signed

Chair of Church Council: Reverend Jon Bellfield