

Safeguarding Principles



Statement of Safeguarding Principles

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of humans in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential 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.

Principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

THE MOORTOWN METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE SAFEGUARDING POLICY 2024-25

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for The Moortown Methodist Church Centre:

This policy was agreed at a Moortown Methodist Church Centre Management Committee held on 27th February 2024

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation 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 Moortown Methodist Church Centre is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount.

The Moortown Methodist Church Centre 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, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Moortown Methodist Church Centre 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 Moortown Methodist Church Centre 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 each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

The Moortown Methodist Church Centre recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual, discriminatory, domestic or institutional abuse or neglect, abuse using social media or human trafficking (slavery). 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 Moortown Methodist Church Centre commits itself to:

1. **RESPOND** without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the Church Centre or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.
2. Ensure the **IMPLEMENTATION** of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit, in the churches, and in the Moortown Methodist Church Centre.
3. 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.
4. **AFFIRM** and give thanks for those who work with children and vulnerable adults and also acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

The Moortown Methodist Church Centre Management Committee appoints Deacon Adelha Da Silva Kaka as the Moortown Methodist Church Centre (Adults and Children) Safeguarding Officer and supports her in his role which is to:

- i) support and advise volunteers in fulfilling their roles
- ii) provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
- iii) liaise with Circuit and District Safeguarding Officers
- iv) promote safeguarding best practice within the Moortown Methodist Church Centre with support of circuit ministers
- v) Ensure proper records are kept of all incidents/concerns according to Methodist policy and practice see [Safeguarding Records: Joint Practice Guidance for the Church of England and the Methodist Church - Updated Jan 2015.](#)
- vi) Ensure that all safeguarding training which is required is undertaken by those in post as staff or volunteers and appropriate records kept and made available
- vii) Attend training and meetings organised to support the role
- viii) Oversee safeguarding throughout the whole life of the Moortown Methodist Church Centre e.g. lettings, groups, property, etc.
- ix) Report to the Moortown Methodist Church Centre Management Committee annually
- x) Ensure that The Moortown Methodist Church Centre has a safeguarding section on its noticeboard with copy of the current, signed, safeguarding policy, contact numbers for local and national helplines and other suitable information

a) Purpose

The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the *Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church (2017)*.

b) Good Practice

We believe good practice means that:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of the Moortown Methodist Church Centre should not meet or work alone with a child 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.
- iii) The Moortown Methodist Church Centre premises will be assessed by the Moortown Methodist Church Centre Safeguarding Officer with the property steward and/or their representatives at least annually for safety for children and vulnerable adults. The Moortown Methodist Church Centre Management Committee will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

c) Guidelines for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults

A leaflet will be produced and reviewed annually to be given to each worker with children, young people and vulnerable adults outlining good practice and systems. The leaflet will be reviewed annually with this policy [the Moortown Methodist Church Centre Management Committee will use the appropriate Connexional leaflets (*Quick Reference Guide and Code of Safer Working Practice Leaflet*)].

d) Ecumenical events

Where ecumenical events happen on the Moortown Methodist Church Centre premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of the Moortown Methodist Church Centre management committee.

e) Events with Moortown Methodist Church Centre groups off the premises

Adequate staffing will be ensured for such events. Notification of the event will be given to Deacon Adelha Da Silva Kaka.

f) Other groups on Moortown Methodist Church Centre premises.

Where the building is hired for outside use, the person signing the letting agency (which should include Safeguarding form E) will be given a copy of this policy and the leaflet. Moortown Methodist Church Centre Trustees will consider the various users of the building in making lettings.

g) 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 Moortown Methodist Church Centre Management Committee and who is currently Deacon Adelha Da Silva Kaka. If a complaint is made to another person, it should be passed to Deacon Adelha Da Silva Kaka 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 Revd. George Bailey (Co-Superintendent).

h) Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Moortown Methodist Church Centre Management Committee. The date of the next review is February 2025

i) Key concepts and definitions

- i) Vulnerable Adults: Any adult aged 18 or over who, due to disability, mental function, age or illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves.
- ii) Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iii) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- iv) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Dated: 27th February 2024

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Signed: Rev Mark C. Stennett

Chair of the Moortown Methodist Church Centre Management Committee