

September 2025



**Peasedown St John  
Methodist Church**



Peasedown Methodist  
Safeguarding Officer

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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.

For further guidance on procedures for safer working practices when managing activities for children, young people and vulnerable adults, please refer to the main Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for The Methodist Church.



# Safeguarding

**Code of Safer Working Practices  
with Children, Young People  
and Vulnerable Adults**

Peasedown St John Methodist Church  
Bath Road, Peasedown St. John, Bath BA2 8DN  
[www.peasedownmethodist.org](http://www.peasedownmethodist.org)

## You should always

- ☑ Be aware of and understand the local safeguarding policy
- ☑ Treat all children, young people and vulnerable adults fairly and without prejudice, discrimination or favouritism
- ☑ Respect differences in gender, sexual orientation, culture, race, ethnicity, disability and faith and challenge behaviour that demonstrates discrimination and/or prejudice
- ☑ Ensure that your own language, tone of voice and body language is respectful
- ☑ Always aim to work with or within sight and hearing of another adult
- ☑ Ensure that another adult is informed if a child, young person or vulnerable adult needs to be taken to the toilet (toilet breaks should be organised for young children)
- ☑ Ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults know who they can contact if they need to speak to someone about a personal concern, they should be made aware of organisations that can provide support
- ☑ Respond warmly to anyone who needs comforting but this should not involve physical comfort e.g. cuddles
- ☑ Advise children, young people, vulnerable adults and their parent/carers/guardians in advance if any activity requires physical contact and provide an opportunity to opt out or agree alternative activities
- ☑ Administer any necessary first aid with others around
- ☑ Obtain consent for any photographs/videos to be taken, shown or displayed via any medium (This should be from the parent, carer or guardian and the young person if 13 years or over)
- ☑ Record any incidents that concern you or make you feel uncomfortable and give the information to your group leader in the first instance, although you must also contact the church, circuit or district safeguarding officer immediately if you believe you have acted in a way that others may have interpreted as inappropriate, or if a child, young person or vulnerable adult has acted improperly towards you, records must be signed and dated
- ☑ Always share concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult, or the behaviour of another worker with your group leader and/or the safeguarding officer

## Promoting Safer Practice

Safer working practice is critical to good safeguarding. Church officers will respect all children, young people and vulnerable adults, and promote their well-being. The Church will create and maintain environments that:

**Are safer for all**  
**Promote well-being**  
**Prevent abuse**

**Create nurturing, caring conditions within the Church**

The Church will challenge any abuse of power within church communities by ensuring church officers adhere to safe working practice.

## Appropriate dress

You should dress appropriately and not wear anything revealing or that is not practical for carrying out the tasks as part of your role.

## Receiving gifts

There may be occasions when children, young people or vulnerable adults give you gifts. It is polite to accept a gift but your group leader should be informed. As a general rule, expensive gifts should not be accepted.

## You should never

- ☒ Initiate physical contact and if this is initiated by the child, young person or vulnerable adult, do not pull away abruptly but do so gently so physical contact is for the minimum amount of time
- ☒ Invade any person's privacy whilst they are washing or using the toilet
- ☒ Play rough physical or sexually provocative games
- ☒ Use any form of physical punishment
- ☒ Be sexually suggestive to anyone, even as a joke
- ☒ Touch anyone inappropriately or forcefully
- ☒ Scapegoat, ridicule, reject or ignore a child, group or adult
- ☒ Allow abusive peer activities (e.g. initiation ceremonies, ridiculing or bullying)
- ☒ Show favouritism to any one child, young person, vulnerable adult or group
- ☒ Allow a child, young person or vulnerable adult to involve you in excessive attention-seeking that is clearly physical or sexual in nature
- ☒ Give lifts to children, young people or vulnerable adults on their own or on your own
- ☒ Smoke any substance, vape or consume alcohol in the presence of children, young people or vulnerable adults when responsible for them
- ☒ Provide personal contact details to a child, young person or vulnerable adult such as mobile number, email or social media contact
- ☒ Share sleeping accommodation with children or vulnerable adults.
- ☒ Arrange social occasions (this includes online activity) with children or invite them to your home outside organised group occasions (other than with the consent of parent, carers or guardians and where at least one other adult is present)
- ☒ Allow unknown adults access to children, young people or vulnerable adults (visitors should always be accompanied by a known person)
- ☒ Allow strangers and those who are not authorised to give children, young people or vulnerable adults lifts