

***** Methodist Church Child Safeguarding Statement

- 1. Name of service being provided:** The Advancement of Religious Belief
- 2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm** (*brief outline of what our service is, what we do and our commitment to safeguard children*): _ We, the Church Council and Congregation of ***** **Methodist Church**, are fully compliant with the Children First Act 2015 and Taking Care, the Child Protection Policy of the Methodist Church in Ireland. We follow the correct procedures and guidelines.
- 3. Risk Assessment**

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	The some of our staff/ helpers may wish to cause harm to our children.	Ensure that all staff/ helpers are checked by the National Vetting Bureau and that they attend regular training.
2	That some of the children may have medical concerns.	All of the children attending our programmes have correct parental permission forms.
3	That some children may be left unattended.	We have the correct ratios in place and our children are supervised adequately.
4	That parents may have concerns about their children.	We have a Designated Person and a Minister/ Lay Pastor who is available to speak to any concern.
5	That there may be need to make a referral to TUSLA or An Garda Siochana.	We are supported by the Connexional Safeguarding Officer as well as the procedures outlined in Taking Care.

4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;

- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla, An Garda Siochana and IMYC;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing our Designated Person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on _____, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

6. Safeguarding Officers

We have the following as our Safeguarding Officers.

Our Minister is : **Rev** *****

Our Designated Person is : *****

Signed: ___Rev ***** (Minister)
[Minister's name and contact details]

For queries, please contact *****, Designated Person under the Children First Act 2015.