

**Circuit Youth Group (CYG) and Circuit Youth activities Safeguarding Policy**

“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 recreation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as being made in the image of God and therefore protect them from harm.”

Circuit Youth Group (CYG) is part of the Bradford South Circuit and as such operates under the circuit safeguarding policy.

Rev Graeme Dutton is responsible (with other circuit presbyters) for this group and for the safeguarding practice.

CYG consists of two age-based sessions, 10-14 year olds and 14+. It is based at Cornerstone church and operates on a Sunday evening. The younger group meeting 6-7.30pm with the older group meeting 7-8.30pm. The overlap session 7-7.30pm allows for the two groups to meet together in a less formal manner.

On certain occasions, such as during school holidays, the time and day may change but such changes are communicated to parents ahead of time, and recorded on the Staff calendar, and a separate record kept. These holiday-time activities may include young people from other groups around the Circuit. These events will follow and adhere to the same guidelines as for CYG.

Contact outside of the regular groups will mostly be with parents/carers. Where contact with the young people via text or phone call is necessary it should only be made by Rev Graeme Dutton or another CLT appointed individual. A record of the details of the contact including content should be made. If contact is by Facebook the Circuit social media policy adhered to.

Risk assessments for all activities should be carried out prior to an event and shared with all staff involved, whether voluntary or paid. Staff should sign acknowledgement that they have seen and agree to abide by the policy and a copy of the signed assessment should be kept by the leader of the event.

Risk assessments for regular activities, such as CYG, should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they are up to date and a copy stored in the appropriate folder in the Circuit Office.

It may sometimes be necessary to provide transport to and from venues for the young people. This is undertaken on the basis that there should always be three people in the car. If this is not possible then an appropriate risk assessment will be undertaken between the leader of the event and superintendent prior to the journey and the car driver will make contact as soon as they have collected/dropped off the child in question.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

.....Chair of Circuit Meeting

Dated.....