

FAQ's

1. Does this policy need to be 'printed' out and kept in each church?
It's up to the church if it prints it out or distributes copies electronically. Basically, some people need to know what's in the whole policy and there needs to be access to the relevant bits, so when a church has made it its own, it probably is helpful to have at least one printed copy on the premises.
2. On an annual basis we review and adopt the policy in each church and usually print out a two page document which is signed and displayed in the church – is there a new format for this document too?
Yes, page 3 is the Policy Statement that can go on noticeboards; page 4 is what you need to do in order to implement the policy.
3. Could you clarify whether we are all to use this version for every local church? I don't remember a previous version being sent to circuits to be used. We already have our own policy, based on the Methodist Church guidelines.
We are trying to make things easier for local churches. The guidelines assume you are implementing the full policy. The DSG experience in the District is that whilst many churches in the District have a policy statement, people don't know what's in the policy and what's relevant to their work. This is for local churches and if they want to use it; it is not mandatory. There is a new Connexional Safeguarding Policy, but what we have put in this one brings together lots of helpful stuff for local churches. Churches therefore do not have to adopt this, but we will assume that churches are working to more robust policies than this or will adopt this one. It has been updated in the light of the 2017 Connexional Safeguarding Policy. We have provided a Safeguarding Policy Statement (page 3) which can be displayed on church noticeboards (add your church name and logos etc.) and guidance on how to implement the policy is on page 4.
4. At present we display our Church Safeguarding Policy on the noticeboard in the churches. They cover two sides of A4 which is fine for a notice board and hopefully does not put people off reading it. Whilst we will adopt the longer copy in our Church Councils would it be possible for the District Team to consider producing a version which is a short enough to display on church noticeboards?
Page 3 is a policy statement that is specifically provided for that purpose. Page 4 tells you how to implement the policy. The whole policy can be printed out and easily fits into a plastic pocket so could be displayed or made available at the church for people to consult if necessary. You can also distribute electronic copies, but we suggest making them a PDF document once the church has agreed and made the necessary changes for the local church.
5. Is this the District Safeguarding Policy (in which case it differs from the District Safeguarding Policy printed in the Synod Directory)? Or is it intended as an example of what each church should adopt as its Church Safeguarding Policy?
It is for local churches. The District Policy is yet to be updated in the light of the new Connexional Policy; we will also try to write a recommended one for Circuits.
6. Is it a replacement for the Safeguarding Handbook? Only pages 3 and 4 are a Statement of Policy, the rest is about implementation and sample forms (which is what is in the Handbook).
The Safeguarding Handbook is now out of date and has been replaced by the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance 2017. We have created this policy to ensure that the latest

guidance has been followed and in a format that is more manageable for local churches, hopefully bringing the relevant bits together and making it clear how we expect churches to be working. Clearly in bigger churches or churches with youth/children's work more of it will apply, so churches will need to work out which bits are relevant for them. It is not mandatory to adopt this but we will be expecting churches to have policies which are at least as robust. In the new Connexional Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance 2017 there is much more that is regarded as policy (how we must do it) than guidance (how we expect you will do it).