



Sandal Methodist Church

Film And Photography Policy Statement

Sandal Methodist Church works with children and families as part of its activities. These include: religious services, organised youth activities, concerts and festivals.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

protect children and young people who take part in Sandal Methodist Church's services, events and activities, specifically those where photographs and videos may be taken

set out the overarching principles that guide our approach to photographs/videos being taken of children and young people during our events and activities

to ensure that we operate in line with our values and within the law when creating, using and sharing images of children and young people.

This policy statement applies to all trustees, members, adherents, volunteers and other adults associated with Sandal Methodist Church.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England as advised by the NSPCC.

We believe that:

children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind

we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to take, share and use images of children safely.

We recognise that:

sharing photographs and films of our activities can help us celebrate the successes and achievements of our children and young people, provide a record of our activities and raise awareness of our organisation

the welfare of the children and young people taking part in our activities is paramount

children, their parents and carers have a right to decide whether their images are taken and how these may be used, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation

consent to take images of children is only meaningful when children, their parents and carers understand how the images will be used and stored, and are fully aware of the potential risks associated with the use and distribution of

these images

there are potential risks associated with sharing images of children online.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

always asking for written consent from a child and their parents or carers before taking and using a child's image

always explaining what images will be used for, how they will be stored and what potential risks are associated with sharing images of children

making it clear that if a child or their family withdraw consent for an image to be shared, it may not be possible to delete images that have already been shared or published

changing the names of children whose images are being used in our published material whenever possible (and only using first names if we do need to identify them)

never publishing personal information about individual children and disguising any identifying information (for example the name of their school or a school uniform with a logo)

making sure children, their parents and carers understand how images of children will be securely stored and for how long (including how we will control access to the images and their associated information)

reducing the risk of images being copied and used inappropriately by:

only using images of children in appropriate clothing (including safety wear if necessary)

avoiding full face and body shots of children taking part in activities such as swimming where there may be a heightened risk of images being misused

using images that positively reflect young people's involvement in the activity.

Photography and/or filming for personal use

When children themselves, parents, carers or spectators are taking photographs or filming at our events and the images are for personal use, we will publish guidance about image sharing in the event programmes and/or announce details of our photography policy before the start of the event. This includes:

reminding parents, carers and children that they need to give consent for [name of group/organisation] to take and use their images

asking for photos taken during the event not to be shared on social media or asking people to gain permission from children, their parents and carers

before sharing photographs and videos that include them

recommending that people check the privacy settings of their social media account to understand who else will be able to view any images they share

reminding children, parents and carers who they can talk to if they have any concerns about images being shared.

Photography and/or filming for Sandal Methodist Church use

We recognise that our group leaders may use photography and filming as an aid in activities such as worship, music or drama. However, this should only be done with permission from the group leader/organiser and using agreed equipment.

Children, young people, parents and carers must also be made aware that photography and filming is part of the programme and give written consent.

If an external official/hired photographer attends one of our events, we will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- providing the photographer with a clear brief about appropriate content and behaviour and ensuring that the photographer wears identification at all times

- informing children, their parents and carers that a photographer will be at the event and ensuring they give written consent to images which feature their child being taken and shared

- not allowing the photographer to have unsupervised access to children

- not allowing the photographer to carry out sessions outside the event or at a child's home

- reporting concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography following our child protection procedures.

Photography and/or filming for wider use

If people such as local journalists, professional photographers (not hired by [name of group/organisation]) or students wish to record one of our events and share the images professionally or in the wider world, they should seek permission in advance.

They should provide:

- the name and address of the person using the camera

- the names of children they wish to take images of (if possible)

the reason for taking the images and/or what the images will be used for

a signed declaration that the information provided is valid and that the images will only be used for the reasons given.

The group leader/organiser will verify these details and decide whether to grant permission for photographs/films to be taken. We will seek consent from the children who are the intended subjects of the images and their parents and inform the photographer of anyone who does not give consent.

At the event we will inform children, parents and carers that an external photographer is present and ensure the photographer is easily identifiable, for example by issuing them with a coloured identification badge.

If an accredited photographer is concerned that someone unknown to us is using their sessions for photography or filming purposes, we will ask them to leave and (depending on the nature of the concerns) follow our child protection procedures.

If consent to take photographs is not given

If children, parents and/or carers do not consent to photographs being taken, we **will respect their wishes. We will agree in advance how they would like to be identified** so the photographer knows not to take pictures of them, and ensure this is done in a way that does not single out the child or make them feel isolated.

We will never exclude a child from an activity because we do not have consent to take their photograph.

Storing images

We will store photographs and videos of children securely, in accordance with our safeguarding policy and data protection law.