

What level of safeguarding training is needed?

Below is a list of key roles within the church community.

The training must be renewed every four years; this only applies to the highest level of safeguarding training required.

Everyone must attend Foundation Module once. However, for roles that then require completion of the Advanced Module, this must be completed within 6 months of starting in the applicable role. Renewing training will then only be at the higher Advanced Module level until the individual is no longer in an applicable role, when training requirements will be reviewed.

Role / Position	Foundation Module required?	Advanced Module required?	Comments
Presbyters or deacons with an active preaching, chaplaincy or pastoral ministry (including supernumerary ministers unless they have an Exemption)	Yes	Yes	Supernumerary ministers who do not have an active preaching or pastoral ministry are warmly invited to both or either.
Pre-ordination students and probationers	Yes	Yes	They should enrol and complete both Modules at the earliest opportunity after commencing the training. Both must be completed by the end of the second year of training.
Those with responsibility for delivering ministerial supervision	Yes	Yes	Either training or trained and accredited under the Methodist Church Reflective Supervision Policy 2021-26
Local Preachers	Yes	Yes	They should enrol and complete both Modules at the earliest opportunity after receiving a Note to Preach. Both must be completed by the end of the second year of training or before their second interview on trial, whichever occurs first.
Worship Leaders	Yes	Yes	They should enrol and complete both Modules at the earliest opportunity after commencing the training. Both must be completed by the end of the second year of training or before their appointment by Church Council, whichever occurs first.

Regional Officers for Safeguarding (ROS) Circuit Safeguarding Officers Church Safeguarding Officers	Yes	Yes	
Members of the Connexional Council	Yes	Yes	
Members of the Connexional Safeguarding Committee	Yes	Yes	
Members of District Safeguarding Groups	Yes	Yes	
Those who deliver Foundation and/or Advanced Module training	Yes	Yes	
Members of Monitoring and Support Groups	Yes	Yes	
Members of Connexional Complaint Panels, Discipline Committees, Pastoral and Appeals Committees	Yes	Yes	Attendance to be monitored Connexionally
Members of District Policy Committees	Yes	Yes	
Evangelism / Mission Enablers	Yes	Yes	
Coaches through God For All provision	Yes	Yes	
Those in leadership roles involving pioneering, New Places for New People (NPNP), Fresh Expressions or evangelism	, Yes	Yes	

Lay Pastors, lay employees and volunteer workers who are appointed to exercise pastoral leadership within a local church	Yes	Yes	
Those in paid employment or a voluntary role which includes leadership within the Methodist Church, involving direct work with children, young people or vulnerable adults	Yes	Yes	
Methodist / Connexionally employed teaching staff at MCIB learning institutions	Yes	Yes	
Mentors for the Young Adult Mission Placement Scheme	Yes	Yes	
Members of Circuit Invitation Committees	Yes	Yes	
Lay employees and volunteer workers with pastoral responsibility	Yes	No	
Pastoral visitors	Yes	No	
Anyone working with children in the name of the church	Yes	No	
Anyone working in activities focused on adults who are vulnerable	Yes	No	e.g. luncheon clubs
Choir/music group/drama leaders where there are children or vulnerable adults in the group	Yes	No	

District staff especially Policy Committee members, complaints and discipline mediators, District Resolutions Officers	Yes	No	
Circuit and Church stewards	Yes	No	
Young Leaders (ages 16-18)	Yes	No	
Church Trustees who do not fall into any of the above groups	Yes	No	As Trustees under the Charity Commission

This list is the minimum requirement – churches can use their discretion to include other groups where they feel that is appropriate.

Warmly invited but not mandatory

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church/Circuit meeting secretaries • Property stewards and other key holders • Any other group leaders within the church, who may have adults who are vulnerable within their group • Other District and Connexional staff • Caretakers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church/Circuit/District administrators • Other teaching staff at Methodist Church Training Institutions • Other Choir/music group/drama leaders • Leaders of other organisations, working with children or vulnerable adults, who use church premises
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Recognition of Church of England and URC Training

The Methodist Church recognises the Church of England and United Reformed Church (URC) safeguarding training as equivalent to the Foundation and Advanced Modules. Therefore, those who have undertaken the Church of England or URC courses at the appropriate level will have satisfied attendance requirements listed above for the Methodist Church.