**Guidance page**

Youth Volunteers Under the age of 18yrs.

**Safer Recruitment**

Young people attending who are being encouraged to develop their leadership skills through helping, should apply for positions through the Safer Recruitment process of the Methodist Church this can be found by following this link: [Safer Recruitment Policy and Practice Guidance (methodist.org.uk)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/recruitment-dbspvg-forms-etc/safer-recruitment-policy-and-practice-guidance/).

The Youth Volunteer should always be overseen by an appointed worker who will be responsible for ensuring that good practice, and that safeguarding procedures are followed and the work they are doing is appropriate to both their age and understanding. This should all be outlined in a clear Role Description.

Only those over 18 can be counted as part of the staff to child ratio.

**DBS Checks for Under 18s**

Employers and voluntary organisations cannot ask for checks on anyone under the age of 16. These rules apply irrespective of the role the young person is doing. Many churches therefore have a blanket ban on youngsters volunteering with vulnerable groups unsupervised. As soon as a child reaches their 16th birthday, they can apply for a DBS check just like anyone else, if the job of voluntary position needs one.

There is no special application form or process for under 18s. This can cause huge difficulties when it comes to proof of identity and age. Although many 16 year olds will have a passport and birth certificate, they are unlikely to have other forms of ID. There aren’t many 16 year olds who have utility bills, and under 18s can’t get contracts for things like mobile phones either. There are ways around this issue. Depending on what ID the young person does have, a letter from a headteacher or college principal might be sufficient – however advice will need to be sought from DDC as to whether this would be accepted- [www.ddc.uk.net](http://www.ddc.uk.net)

For more details please follow this link to the Safeguarding Policy of the Methodist Church and refer to 6.3 Code of safer working practice with Children and Young People: [safeguarding\_policy\_procedures\_and-\_guidance\_for\_the\_methodist\_church\_oct\_2021docx.pdf](https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/23972/safeguarding_policy_procedures_and-_guidance_for_the_methodist_church_oct_2021docx.pdf)