

## GUIDE FOR OTHER EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS IN YOUR CHURCH BUILDING

Version 1	10/07/2020	Simplification of previous guidance;
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### **1. Introduction**

Managing Trustees will be aware that Government policy decisions affect parts of Methodist Church property in different ways and at different times. We have therefore adapted this guidance to work with the overarching **Guide to Reopening and Managing your Church Building**.

This Guide is part of STEP 5: Safety First in the process for reopening and managing your church building. It provides specific considerations in relation to reopening and managing church buildings which accommodate other educational settings (both church related or third party).

This guidance is intended to provide Managing Trustees with a broad overview of the requirements on them or for other groups who may potentially want to continue or reopen their provision which is run from Church property. This guidance may not cover every eventuality, and therefore we would recommend that Managing Trustees contact the Connexional Property team for further guidance if they have specific matters they wish to discuss at – [property@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:property@methodistchurch.org.uk)

### **2. Government Policy Basis & Timescales for Implementation**

The government's guidance continues to be updated, and is outlined here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close-guidance>

### **3. Educational Settings**

#### i. Early Years Settings:

As outlined in the separate specific guidance early years education provision covers all early years providers in England, which include the following groups:

- Local authority-maintained schools
- Non-maintained schools
- Independent schools
- All providers on the early years register
- All providers registered with an early years childminder agency

Managing Trustees need to assure themselves that their provision or provider fits into one of these categories. This guidance and expectation to open is currently aimed only at early years providers who are registered with OfSTED or a Childminder Agency under the Childcare Act 2006. More information on the definition and differentiation on this can be found at -

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childminders-and-childcare-providers-register-with-ofsted/childcare-and-the-law>.

If the provision within the church property does not fall into one of these categories, then it cannot currently reopen.

#### ii. Other Educational Settings:

Some church property may be used by specialist educational providers, whose provision falls under government guidance updated on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020. This guidance outlines very specific requirements and expectations, so it is essential that Managing Trustees refer to this through the link below first –

**Supporting vulnerable children and young people during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - actions for educational providers and other partners**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

These provisions need to be specifically meeting the requirements for ‘identification of vulnerable children and young people’, which are outlined in the following ways –

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child.
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and it is determined, following risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment.
- have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued attendance. This might include children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children’s social care services, adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET (‘not in employment, education or training’), those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers and others at the provider and local authority’s discretion.

Only if a provision is meeting the needs outlined in the groups above can this provision reopen or continue. It must also be undertaken within the strict guidelines outlined in the government document including undertaking risk assessments, shielding or clinically vulnerable people.

It is important that if deciding to reopen a provision, whether directly or through a third party, Managing Trustees should reference the Connexional guidance for Early Years Provision in terms of processes and procedures, found [here](#).