

Social media guidelines



A healthy Christian community is a safe place of mutual care, where all people feel valued, loved and respected.

These guidelines for engaging on social media reflect those values.

These guidelines apply to all content and comments in relation to Memorial Community Church social media channels, and emails, and members of MCC are asked to follow them.

Why use social media?

Memorial Community Church encourages the use of social media tools as a means of extending our engagement with people inside and outside the church. This includes

- Sharing our stories
- Engaging in conversations 'where people are'
- Sharing, learning and encouraging
- Reaching those who cannot physically attend church
- Forming and deepening relationships locally and globally

Consider the safety of yourself and others

It is important that the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults especially, must be maintained.

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact one of the MCC safeguarding leads.

MCC safeguarding lead for children – Julia Dexter, 07817319556, juliadexter@btinternet.com

MCC safeguarding lead for adults – Eva Price, 07421235291, eprice@talktalk.net

MCC deputy safeguarding lead – Lydia Yeboah, 07939913911, lydiayeboah@aol.com.

Conversation on social media can sometimes develop into heated and pointless argument. Be aware of the effect on yourself, and don't feel you always need to engage. You can always 'sign off' from a heated conversation calmly, with something like 'I think we'll have to agree to disagree. Peace.'

Be aware that passing on information about others can be distressing, and may be libel.

Respect

Do not post or share content that is sexually explicit, inflammatory, hateful, abusive, threatening or otherwise disrespectful. Try to think of the effect on others who may see what you post.

Be transparent

Don't mislead people about who you are, or use pseudonyms.

Disagree with love

If you have a criticism you need to make, consider carefully the tone of what you write. If you are personally attacked, do not respond in kind. Being a Christian means that sometimes we must speak out and challenge injustice. But remember when you need to point out something you think is wrong, that there is a real, and possibly vulnerable, person at the receiving end of what you say.

Be careful when sharing content

Don't share in haste. Read linked content thoroughly, or watch a video to the end so you know exactly what you are sharing, before you judge whether it is suitable to share.

Church employees, elders and deacons have a particular responsibility to be thoughtful about what they share.

Maintain confidentiality

If telling a story about someone else, ask yourself first '**Is this my story to tell?**' Don't reveal personal details about others without their explicit permission.

Be thoughtful about sharing email addresses. Sending emails BCC protects the confidentiality of others.

Where possible start new emails, rather than creating a 'trail'. A 'trail' can easily contain information which is confidential.

Our responsibilities

If you have concerns about social media content you should pass these to the minister or the church secretary.

These guidelines will be reviewed regularly and updated in light of feedback and experience. If you have questions or suggestions please email secretary@memorialcc.org.uk.

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