

Aims & Objectives

We have three main aims for our youth group:

1. To encourage our young people to grow and develop into spiritually healthy young adults. We will aim to do so, by providing a range of activities that will create an environment which provides a safe space for the young people to express themselves and explore the impact of Christianity in their lives.
2. To develop the young people's personal identity and the importance of their belonging to the group, as well as their active involvement to grow as a group. We will aim to do so, by creating opportunities where the young people can explore life issues and equip them to become more resilient to life experiences, as well as providing space for the group to grow and develop as a whole.
3. To identify their spiritual gifts and to find opportunities to use these within the youth group and the wider church community. We will aim to do this by developing healthy relationships which allow the leaders to get to know the young people individually and by providing activities and events where the young people can explore and use their spiritual gifts.

How do we provide a safe space?

Transportation:

Where possible, it is the parents or guardians' responsibility to provide transportation to and from youth group for their young person.

If the parents or guardians decide to allow their young person to make their own way to and from the youth group, it is their responsibility to ensure that **the correct consent form A** is signed. A young person is not allowed to leave the premises unaccompanied without the completed, signed consent form.

Any transportation that is provided by youth leaders, will only be done with prior arrangement and all youth leaders must have the correct insurance.

Where possible there will be two youth leaders in the car with the young person. However, where this is not possible parents will be informed of this and the correct **consent form B** is to be signed.

Bible Studies, Prayers and Devotional Times:

To create a safe environment for these activities, the leaders will promote respect, empathy, interest and encouragement, so that the young people can express themselves and feel safe to raise spiritual questions.

It is the responsibility of all youth leaders to ensure that the content of the Bible study and the devotional time is appropriate and that differences of opinions are valued; however, all leaders need to ensure that God's word is at the centre of all teaching.

Games and Activities (Taken from Church of England guidelines)

Those attending should practise physical distancing and wear face coverings in line with the government's current guidance. As the risk of transmission is considerably lower outdoors, providers who normally run sessions indoors should consider whether they are able to do so safely outside on their premises. Activities should be developed so that, at all times:

- Volunteers, children and young people comply with physical distancing and face covering requirements (determined by the government)
- Hygiene levels are maintained, particularly in the areas of hand washing, use of toilet facilities and surface and equipment cleaning
- Any risk to volunteers, young people and the wider community, is safely managed, including a reduction in group sizes where necessary
- Vulnerable young people and adults can be effectively safeguarded, both in relation to COVID- 19, as well as other risk factors
- Volunteers, parents, children and young people all clearly understand what adjustments need to be made to ensure everyone's safety and have had a chance to inform them

To create a safe environment while undertaking games and activities, the leaders will provide a range of activities that are inclusive, ensuring that they do not discriminate any young person. Reasonable adjustments will be made where possible to ensure that each young person can take part in all games and activities.

It is the responsibility of all youth leaders to ensure that all games and activities are safe and age appropriate. This includes completing a visual risk assessment and taking any actions necessary to minimise any risk.

Activities Outside

All activities outside will follow the guidelines as set out in the games and activities section. In addition, when joining the group, a **consent form C** must be signed by the responsible adult. It is the parents' responsibility to inform the group leaders of any changes to the information on this form and their ability to take part in outside activities.

Details regarding outside activities will be communicated to parents in advance and the leader will be available for any questions or problems.

Events and Trips

Events and trips include activities on a wider scale which may include other organisations and churches. For these activities a separate **consent form D** must be signed by the responsible adult. When planning such events and trips, the youth leaders will ensure that they are safe and age appropriate, including informing the young people of the appropriate behaviour and conduct to ensure their safety throughout.

Details regarding events and trips will be communicated to parents in advance and the leader will be available for any questions or problems.