

Birmingham Catholic Youth Service

Suggested Youth Group Constitution

Title

The name of this organisation is ***** (hereafter referred to as the Youth Group) and is responsible for youth work in the parish of *****.

Mission Statement

The Youth Group seeks to understand, encourage and empower young people aged between ***** years of age, in their search for meaning of life; to respond to the invitation by Jesus Christ to wholeness, friendship and community.

Aim

The aim of the Youth Group is to help young people foster their personal, social and spiritual development and to empower them to make a fuller contribution to the Church and to society.

Objectives

To provide a range of opportunities enabling young people to develop understanding and skills, which will allow them to:

- Socialise and have fun with others in a safe environment
- Provide opportunities for young people to meet and learn from each other
- Build confidence to broaden horizons
- Raise awareness of the Gospel message.

To encourage the involvement of young people within the parish and local community, and for the young people to have an identity within that wider community.

To work in partnership with the Birmingham Catholic Youth Service and local schools to promote opportunities for young people to meet and have fun.

To recruit and develop new Youth Leaders to support the activities of the Youth Group

Methods

- To provide recreational and social activities in a safe environment in which young people can enjoy each other's company, relax and have fun.
- Provide spiritual development to understand and enter into the Church's Liturgy.
- Allow young people the opportunity of self-expression and involvement in the Arts and Music to develop skills and confidence
- Provide the opportunity for young people to network, share experiences and support each other
- To provide appropriate spiritual development and opportunities to take part in the Church's liturgy.

Membership

Membership is open to all young people aged between ** & ** years of age.

Meetings

Meetings will be held in the **** (place) , from **** to **** (time), on **** (day) evenings, during term time.

Parents and guardians of young people attending the Youth Group are responsible for dropping off and collecting their charges at the appropriate times.

Advisory Group

The Birmingham Catholic Youth Service provides appropriate advice, development, training and help to enable the efficient running of the Youth Group.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Parish Priest. The Parish Priest of **** Church is responsible for overseeing the running of the Youth Group and the appointment of competent Youth Leaders. This will include: obtaining the necessary CRB clearance and where appropriate provision of appropriate training, prior to the appointment of a Youth Leader.

The Parish Child Protection Representative will be involved at all these stages and will keep appropriate records.

Steering Group. The steering group will exist to;

Offer practical support to leaders, define general policy (not the weekly program), ensure that the aims & objectives of the youth group are met and maintain links between the group and the parish. Also to ensure that there is adequate leadership, to consider health & safety issues and to be aware of the needs of the young people in the locality, and to discuss ways of providing for those needs.

Membership of the steering group will be as follows:

Parish Priest/Deacon

Parish Council representative

Child Protection representative

Parents

Youth leaders

Youth Leaders. Youth Leaders are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Youth Group, ensuring that general behaviour is maintained and that all meetings and events are run in accordance with Child Protection Procedures and relevant law. An outline description of the role of the Youth Leader together with a checklist for good practice can be found in Appendix B and C.

Young Leaders. To assist the development of young people, a number of Young Leaders (15-18 years old) may be appointed to help in the organisation of activities during Youth Group meetings and events. On no account will Young Leaders be given responsibilities for supervising any of the activities of the Youth Group without at least the support of one Youth Leader.

Young People. Young people attending the Youth Group will be expected to demonstrate a reasonable level of self-control and be responsible for their own actions throughout the duration of the Youth Group meeting. They will be expected to abide by Youth Group rules.

Discipline

Where serious matters of discipline are raised by Youth Leaders, they should be brought to the attention of parents or guardians in the first instance and subsequently to the Parish Priest for appropriate action to be taken.

Finances

The finances of the Youth Group will be managed by designated Youth Leaders, and overseen by the Parish Priest. In the event of dissolution of the Youth Group, all funds revert back to the Parish. On an annual basis the accounts records should be audited by....

Property

All property purchased on behalf of the Youth Group, remains the property of *** Church.

Parental Consent

Parents/guardians of young people will be asked to complete the Registration & Consent Form (Appendix A). This will include a statement that young people will abide by the rules and conditions of the Youth Group.

Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may only be made by.....