

Yearly Meeting Gathering 2020

Children's Programme Information and Guidance for Responsible Adults



The Children's Programme is split into:

- The younger Children's Programme for 0 - 4yr olds which will be divided into two groups. Parents and responsible adults will be able to settle their children into groups if necessary.
- The older Children's Programme for the 5 - 11yr olds which is divided into three groups: It is not expected that parents or responsible adults will stay with these groups.

Please note:

- All children and young people participating in YMG 2020 must have a responsible adult present throughout the event. Responsible adults must be aged over 20, unless they have parental responsibility for the participant.
- Responsible adults should be willing and available to discuss with the Children Programme team any issues that arise in relation to the child or children they have responsibility for.
- If there is anything that you need to tell the Children's Programme team before the start of a session please talk to the Key Facilitator for the group at the session sign in. There will be an opportunity at registration for responsible adults to talk with the volunteers and staff member overseeing the Children's Programme.
- Children need to be signed in at the start of each session. To avoid crowding during sign in and out times it is asked that there is only one parent doing this.
- Please tell Mel Cook (Children's Work Officer) if your child is unable to come to the session you have booked for by calling 07745 566 340.

What the YMG Children's Programme offers

The Children's Programme seeks to enable children to take a full part in Yearly Meeting Gathering as a worshipping community and a decision making body. It provides opportunities for spiritual growth and faith development and enables children to explore their religious lives.

The Children's Programme follows the Yearly Meeting Gathering topics and explores issues on the Yearly Meeting agenda, using a variety of activities in age appropriate ways.

Worship is a core element of the programme with all ages having opportunities to experience a variety of forms of Quaker worship each day.

Participants also have chances to be creative, explore their spirituality, have fun and make friends with other Quakers their age.

The Children's Programme gives participants the chance to develop in the following ways:

- **Understanding Quakerism:** providing a Quaker experience
- **Exploring issues:** that are important to children
- **Personal growth:** appropriate to the age of the children in the group
- **Participation and integration:** joining in with the topics the Yearly Meeting is considering
- **Spiritual development:** worship and reflection are a part of all sessions

What to do if you have a problem

We want to make the Children's Programme enjoyable, interesting and safe for everybody who comes.

If you feel unhappy or worried about anything or if you have a suggestion, a comment or a complaint about something that has happened at Yearly Meeting you can:

- Tell a member of the team working with your group.
- Talk to the Staff member, Mel Cook, responsible for the programme or to the CYP Overseer (Madeleine Harding).
- Speak to Howard Nurden who is responsible overall for the Children and Young People's Programmes.
- Write on your feedback form at the end of the week.

If you tell us during Yearly Meeting Gathering we will do what we can to sort out the problem.

Specific information for the younger Children's Programme (0 - 4s)

The Children's Programme for younger children a full part of Yearly Meeting Gathering and specially planned for this age group. It is staffed by Friends who are experienced at working with very young children and at providing appropriate Quaker activities. It is provided so that parents and carers can attend Yearly Meeting Gathering sessions and is not an all age programme. The aim is for parents to settle their child and eventually leave. We will work hard to make sure parents and carers feel comfortable leaving their child with the programme team and that children will feel comfortable being left.

Parents and carers are welcome to stay to settle their children or to be present with their child as necessary. The time that parents and carers of babies stay will obviously vary according to the needs of their child. If you find that your baby or child needs you to stay well into Children's Programme time, please bring her or him into the activities led by the team.

Children are in their group to engage and explore. As far as possible parents or carers should sit back from the group their child is in while they become settled and engaged.

Please remember if you stay in the group, that you are there for your child and that you should not become involved with other children.

We are aware that some children in the younger children's programme may not be in their programme for the whole time because they may be feeding, napping or are not used to being left. The Children's Programme will accommodate these needs.

At the start of a session, in order to create a calm environment, it helps to have only one parent or carer per child in the Children's Programme rooms. Buggies and pushchairs, where possible, should be left in the designated space.

Can my child attend Yearly Meeting sessions, small group sessions and special interest groups?


Yearly Meeting Gathering Arrangements Committee offers the following guidance on going into sessions, and other groups, with young children:

'We are not seeking to create a rule that forbids the presence of young children. However, it is important that the meeting is able to remain gathered and focused on the issue it is considering. The possible distraction to Friends in a session of a baby sleeping is very different to the distraction caused by a toddler talking or walking around in a session. Some Friends, especially those with hearing difficulties, may find any noise in sessions disturbing; others may be comfortable with it. Please be aware of this and use discretion in what sessions you come to with young children and the length of time you spend in sessions.'

You should ask the facilitator of any Yearly Meeting small groups that you attend if they are happy for your child to attend.

YMG 2020 Children's Programme at a glance

 Children's Programme running alongside YM sessions / workshops / lectures / small groups

 Optional sessions for 5 -11's (book at the event)

Drop off: within fifteen minutes before the start of each session. **Pick up:** within fifteen minutes after the end of each session.

Saturday			18.30 – 19.30 Registration and meet the team
Sunday	All age YMG session 9.30am -10.30am 10.45 – 12.30	14.30 – 17.00	YMG community activities
Monday	9.30 – 12.30	Free time. Opportunities for activities and trips out.	Optional for 5 - 11s 19.15 – 20.30 Swarthmore Lecture
Tuesday	9.30 – 12.30	14.30 – 17.00	YMG community activities
Wednesday	9.30 – 12.30	Free time. Opportunities for activities and trips out.	Optional for 5 - 11s 19.15 – 20.30 Salter Lecture
Thursday	9.30 – 12.30	14.30 – 17.00	All age activities including those relating to Hiroshima Remembrance
Friday	9.30 – 12.30 Joining YM session 11.20 – 12.20		