

Childrens Ministry Charter

Junior Church, Midweek groups, Holiday Clubs, and the Whole Church

The Charter

- 1.Children are equal partners with adults in the life of the church
- 2.The full diet of Christian worship is for children as well as adults
- 3.Learning is for the whole church, adults and children
- 4.Fellowship is for all – each belonging meaningfully to the rest
- 5.Service is for children to give, as well as adults
- 6.The call to evangelism comes to all God’s people of whatever age
- 7.The Holy Spirit speaks powerfully through children as well as adults
- 8.The discovery and development of gifts in children and adults is a key function of the church
- 9.As a church community we must learn to do only those things in separate age groups, which we cannot in all conscience do together
- 10.The concept of the “Priesthood of all Believers” includes children.
- 11.To treat the preparation of Sunday School / Junior Church with as much care and respect as given to the main service

Our Identity, Call and Mission

This Charter is for all those working with Children and Young People in Methodist Churches. Our Calling in The Methodist Church is to respond to the Gospel of Gods love and to live out its discipleship in:

Worship, Service, Learning and Caring, Service, Evangelism

Children and Youth Leaders in our local Church live out Our Calling in relation to working with Children and youth within and outside the Church.

The Challenge

The Methodist Church is engaged in an enormous variety of ministries for Children and Young People from a Sunday School / Junior Church group to a wide selection of midweek work. Whatever your role, this brochure was prepared to enable you as a worker in Children’s and Youth Ministries to make every child’s and young persons contact with Church the best it can be. It contains ideas and suggestions to help you play your part in a Church where children and young people experience Gods love, feel included in the life of the congregation and have opportunities to grow in their faith.

Top Tips for Children and Youth Leaders Ministry with Children and Young People

Top Tips

Your primary tasks:

- Creating: opportunities for and encouraging the voice of children and young people to be heard
- Acting as an advocate for children and young people
- Creating an environment that helps children and young people to be physically, socially, morally, mentally and spiritually healthy.
- Giving children and young people the opportunity to lead a fulfilling Church life helping them on their journey as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Developing positive relationships - your role requires you to have good working relationships with other leaders and a variety of other groups and individuals.

You are not expected to attempt this task alone, you are part of a team with:

- . Other Leaders in your Church
- . Stewards and Church Council
- . The Minister, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders
- . Parents, grandparents, caregivers
- . People in your congregation
- . People in the community who work with children and youth

Whatever the size and organizational structure of your particular Church here are some things to think about:

- Training is essential utilize all opportunities
- Ensure children and young people are involved in the decision making process
- Study the needs, wants, gifts of children and young people
- Be Flexible and imaginative
- Have a working knowledge of safeguarding policies
- Research and be aware of new resources

Top Tips for Church Leadership Church Councils, Stewards, Leadership Teams Your Ministry with Children and Young People

Top Tips

Childrens Ministry is one of the key Leadership areas of any Church, children and youth are a significant part of the 'NOW' ministry of the Church

The following functions of leadership are essential to strengthen and support the ministry of the Church:

- Identifying and supporting Leaders
- Discovering current reality (The way things are)
- Naming shared vision
- Developing action plans
- Monitoring the Journey
- Working Safeguarding Policy

Lead in the spirit -Each leader is a spiritual leader and you are encouraged to identify your own spiritual practice. John Wesley suggested several means to cultivate spiritual practice: Prayer, Bible Study, public and private worship, Christian conversation.

Discover Current reality – The ways things are, spend time talking with all those who work with children and young people.

Named Shared Vision –The way things are is only a prelude to the way you want things to be. Spend time with each other discussing the way forward. How can you together move forward.

Develop Action Plans – How do you get from your current reality to your shared vision ? Interim goals and action plans are what will make your vision a reality. Action plans should be:

- Specific
- Measurable
- Attainable

Monitor your Journey – Keep an eye on how things are going, evaluate where you are in the plan, be flexible, setbacks will occur keep moving towards your shared vision.

Taking time to reflect on Childrens and Youth Ministry

Top Tips

It is good practice to take time to evaluate the variety of opportunities available for Children and Young people at your Church.

Some questions to think about

Do Children and Young people have opportunities to:

- Practice spiritual habits, such as prayer, worship and service to others
- Learn and experience biblical stories and
experience scripture at an appropriate development level
- Learn rituals of the faith, such as the Lords Prayer,
- Experience fellowship with adults, children and youth
- Experience Gods loving care from leaders and teachers
- Contribute to the life of the Church
- Be involved in mission, stewardship and service