



: Guildford Youth Movement

www.guildforyouthmovement.co.uk

Policies

Title

The name of this organisation is Guildford Youth Movement (hereafter referred to as GYM) and is responsible for youth work in the parish of St Joseph's, Guildford.

Mission Statement

GYM is an open, accepting, non-judgemental and fun environment for young people in the Guildford area where they can grow as a community. GYM seeks to understand, encourage and empower young people aged between 13-18 years of age, in their search for meaning of life for today and provides a model of how Jesus met with people.

Aim

The broad aim of GYM is to help young people foster their personal 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, this 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 St Joseph's Church and local schools to promote opportunities for young people to meet and have fun.

To recruit and develop new GYM Leaders to support the activities of GYM.

Methods

GYM's Friday night project

- 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 the opportunity for young people to network, share experiences and support each other
- Allow young people the opportunity of self-expression and involvement in the arts and music to develop skills and confidence

GYM's outreach programme The Well & The KEY (GYM's worship band)

- Provide spiritual development to understand and enter into the Church's Liturgy.
- 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 13 & 18 years of age.

Meetings

Meetings will be held in St Joseph's Church Hall, from 7 pm to 9.30 pm, on Friday evenings, during term time and half-terms.

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

GYM has a signing in/signing out registration system in place to monitor which young people are present on the premises at any time. GYM's Friday night programme has an open-door policy which means that those attending can come in and out as they please during the meeting time. This applies to all young people that attend GYM, unless otherwise requested by parents/guardians.

Advisory Group

St Joseph's Church provides appropriate advice, development, training and help to enable the efficient running of GYM.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Parish Youth Worker

- The Parish Youth Worker of St Joseph's Church is responsible for overseeing the running of GYM and the appointment of competent GYM 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.
- GYM Leaders are responsible for the day-to-day running of GYM, ensuring that general behaviour is maintained and that all meetings and events are run in accordance with Child Protection Procedures and relevant law

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 GYM meetings and events. On no account will Young Leaders be given responsibilities for supervising any of the activities of GYM without at least the support of one Youth Leader.

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 GYM 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

Young People

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

Discipline

Where serious matters of discipline are raised by GYM 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 GYM will be managed by designated Youth Leaders, and overseen by the Parish Priest. In the event of dissolution of GYM, all funds revert back to the Parish. On an annual basis the accounts records should be audited by St Joseph's Stewardship committee.

Property

All property purchased on behalf of GYM, remains the property of St Joseph's 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 GYM.

Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may only be made by the designated Parish Youth Worker and/or the Parish Priest.