



# YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP TEAM MEMBER



# VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

We at **St Francis** seek to put God at the centre of who we are and all that we do. Church is not just about Sundays, but the whole of life. Whether we are alone or with others, we are always the church – called into relationship with God through His love and kindness.

We intend our Sunday services to honour God and to equip us for doing Life with God during our whole week with family, friends and work colleagues.

We believe that our behaviour should be of a high ethical standard that brings glory and honour to God. We believe that every human has been made in the image of God and as such should be treated with dignity and respect. Our desire as a church team is to inspire, encourage and build one-another up in our efforts to glorify God in our work and we value living in accordance with the gospel.

## **Helpful practises to consider in a volunteer role:**

- 1) Carry out our duties in a way that glorifies God and honours his Church.
- 2) Treat everyone with care, kindness, honesty, love and respect regardless of their race, gender, sexuality, position or religious beliefs.
- 3) In all financial matters act with integrity and transparency, being able to give an account publicly for all monies handled by us on behalf of others.
- 4) Encourage and support each other and church members.
- 5) Where disagreements or grievances occur and a resolution is not forthcoming, we will seek additional assistance.
  - a) In instances of conflict or division, we will make every effort to biblically pursue reconciliation and resolution.
  - b) Issues pertaining to criminal actions, allegations of abuse, serious misconduct, bullying or sexual misconduct will be referred to the appropriate authorities.
- 6) When interacting with minors (people under the age of 18) we shall promote trustworthy and honest relationships between minors and adults. It is essential that all volunteers understand and apply the principles of the Church of England Code of Safer Working Practice see link to [Safety and Wellbeing](#) at the bottom of our on our website home page (st-francischurch.org.uk)

# YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP COACH

Thank you very much for being willing to give your time to serve with our youth ministry. Our aim is to connect with young people in the Church and in the community, to provide safe spaces for all young people to encounter Jesus, equip young people for life with God through discipleship, empower young people to mature spiritually, socially and emotionally and to recognise and engage in God's work. Our hope is to see young people actively seeking to live life with God, to help others encounter Jesus, enjoy engaging with their church and be equipped for life outside of and beyond St Francis Youth.

As a member of the Youth Ministry:

- You will be responsible to **Sophie Stokes**, the Youth Worker
- You will be serving in a team of two or more
- You will be serving at least once a month; rotas are published in ChurchSuite.
- You will be invited to attend a team gathering once a term to bless you, build team support and give you priceless skills/resources
- You are required to undertake a DBS check and attend safeguarding training once a year
- You will be supported and encouraged to undertake any training which you think may be useful

## Key responsibilities

- To work with the young people in a way that meets and develops their personal, spiritual and social needs, exercising active pastoral concern and developing good relationships.
- To maintain a good link with parents/carers and show genuine pastoral interest in young people outside of sessions (during Church gatherings/activities)
- For the morning: to arrive at 10.30, set up the room and pray for the youth, then to meet them in the Church as they arrive and chat to/catch up with them
- For the evening: to arrive 15 minutes early to set up and catch up with the other youth leaders and to pray for the youth.
- Prepare the session ahead of time (together with your team mate if you have one). Arrange breakfast (get in touch with Sophie about how to reclaim), prayerfully consider the subject/Bible verse twice before preparing a session and prepare a session which is unique to you and your gifts. A useful resource: [Energise.uk.net](http://Energise.uk.net) – Sophie can give you login details

There is a photocopier in Sophie's office and you are very welcome to email Sophie if you need any help to plan or if you would like Sophie to organise purchasing any resources for you.

- Be a welcoming face to young people as they arrive, completing the ChurchSuite 'Attendance'. If a child is new, check we have parent contact details and consents, and give them a registration form to return.
- Seek the presence of God in sessions, being attentive to His leading and regularly upholding our young people in prayer
- Hold conversations with young people and offer prayer and support where appropriate
- Find ways to empower young people to develop and reach their full potential
- Keep the venue tidy and safe, using initiative to clean spills and tidy mess, leaving the room as tidy/clean as you'd like to find it
- Engage in activities, talk with young people and help them mix with one another
- Challenge any unsafe or unkind behaviour immediately in a gracious and loving way
- Be familiar with the risk assessment for the activity and the Church policies
- Be a role model to the young people (character is caught not taught)
- Keep yourself and fellow leaders safe by ensuring there is always at least two adults present in the room at all times except in an emergency when one may leave to get help and being familiar with and always follow our Child Protection Policy which can be found at [Safety and Wellbeing \(st-francischurch.org.uk\)](http://SafetyandWellbeing(st-francischurch.org.uk)).

### Our groups

Sunday AM - Younger Youth (school years 6-9) usually meeting in Church and going to the Youth Lounge for a planned session

Sunday AM - Older Youth (school years 10-13) usually meeting in Church and going to the Beatrice Room for a pre-thought discussion

Sunday PM – Older Youth (school years 10-13) usually meeting in the Youth Lounge for a planned session

Youth Life Groups (official name to be confirmed) – meeting either in the Youth Lounge on a Sunday evening or in Allington at a leader's home on a Tuesday evening for a planned session

### What do I do if I cannot attend?

It is completely understandable that you may not be able to attend a session due to illness or availability. As soon as you are aware that you won't be able to attend, inform Sophie and then try to arrange a swap with another member of the team. If you cannot find someone to swap with please let Sophie know ASAP