

How to set up and run a youth team

1 Getting started

Here are a few pointers to help with getting a young ringers group started.

The details of the youth teams and groups can be found on the [Young Ringers Hub](#). This group of dedicated leaders will be happy to support you in any way they can.

1.1 Youth group leadership

It is important that youth group leaders are recognised and endorsed / appointed by the Guild. These roles are generally not elected, given it is working with under 18s, but they must have the support of the Guild Trustees.

The leader can be a single person, or a committee approach can be adopted to spread the responsibilities across more people. This can help with workload and also increase the knowledge, skills and experience available to the team.

The following is an example of a leadership team approach:

- Youth Ringing Leader – organises and runs practices, prepares for competitions and communicates with parents
- Assistant Youth Ringing Leader – supports Youth Ringing Leader as agreed
- Admin support – look after finances, t shirts, snacks etc
- Development lead – analyses the development needs of the young ringers, organise quarters / peals etc

1.2 Safeguarding

This is the responsibility of the group leader(s). Appropriate safeguarding arrangements need to be put in place as specified by the Church. Seek support from your Guild Safeguarding lead to make sure that you comply with the necessary requirements.

The CCCBR guidance can be found here:

[Safeguarding – CCCBR](#)

All involved in a leadership role should be DBS checked to the level of “enhanced with children’s barred list”. The respective Guild Trustees will need to satisfy themselves that the appropriate arrangements are in place.

All youth team events should have a minimum of 2 DBS checked adults present.

1.3 Communications

Given the need for safeguarding, it is wise to consider how the sessions are publicised. For example, you could advertise that there is a youth group on the Guild website and that the sessions are monthly, but only communicate the location to the group, including helpers, parents and carers.

This is an example of how a youth team is advertised on a Guild website:

[Youth Ringing – Coventry Diocesan Guild](#)

This can then be supported by email, whatsapp, google sheets or other tools that the leader may prefer, which is limited to specific individuals.

It makes sense to have a generic email that is published on the relevant Guild websites as well as the Young Ringer Hub. Anyone involved with the team leadership can have access to this email arranged locally and the information on websites remains valid.

The use of social media with young people can be challenging. This is an example of a social media policy that can be used if needed.

[Add link to social media policy here when available]

1.4 Transport

It’s good to encourage parents / carers to get involved with transport as well as getting local ringers to be responsible for transporting their young ringers.

Arrangements need to be made in accordance with the relevant safeguarding policies and in agreement with parents / carers. Take care to comply with DBS requirements.

1.5 Permissions

It is good practice to have permission forms in place with young ringers in relation to participation, photography, transport etc

[RWNYC Consent form example.docx](#)

Some Guilds / towers require a risk assessment to be carried out. This is good practice for outings, RWNYC etc

[RWNYC Risk assessment example.doc](#)

2 Running the team

How leaders run their sessions depends on many factors, including capability of young ringers, number and capability of helpers, geography etc.

Fostering a team identity really helps create a feeling of belonging and a team spirit. Getting the youngsters involved in the design of team shirts, hats and choosing mascots are all positive for team building!

It's important that the sessions are enjoyable for the young ringers, but strong leadership is needed to support and harness youthful enthusiasm! Maintaining a focus on striking is very important and the RWNYC really helps with this, as it gives young ringers a tangible link with why good striking is important.

2.1 What to do

The Youth group leader(s) are responsible for:

- Arranging and leading monthly practices
- Attending Guild events to support young ringers
- Arranging and attending outings, quarter peals, socials etc
- Preparing the young ringers for the RWNYC
- Liaising with RWNYC organiser and leading on logistics for the event for the youth team

- Entering and preparing for Guild striking competitions and regional striking competitions
- Arranging regular youth ringing opportunities, including towers, support from experienced ringers, workshops etc
- Safeguarding
- Permissions

2.2 Resources

The Association of Ringing Teachers have a lot of resources that are suitable and fun for young ringers, plus guild ringing masters can be helpful contacts. Having a development plan in place for individuals and as a team is good practice.

[Link here to the YRH Library]

Where to ring

Each group will arrange ringing to best suit their circumstances – there is no right or wrong solution, other than the bells need to be suitable for young ringers. Rotating towers bring variety, a home tower can bring consistency and a sense of belonging to a team.

Working with parents / carers

One of the biggest challenges is getting parents engaged, which is tricky, especially with non ringing parents. You need to explain some of the basics about ringing and how it is organised, level of commitment etc. This is a good example, that can be adapted for your guild.

[Parents Guide to Ringing 4MB.pdf](#)

[a generic version of this will be provided in the YRH]

Sponsorship of the team

Guilds are generally happy to support the youth teams financially, including t-shirts and paying RWNYC entry fees.

It's a great idea to have some petty cash for cakes and snacks to keep the youngsters fuelled up!