

Figtree Youth **PARENT INFORMATION PACK**

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figtreeyouth

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WELCOME TO FIGTREE YOUTH!



We are so excited to have you and your young person join our Figtree Youth Community!

At Figtree Youth, we are passionate about seeing young people grow in their faith, build deep friendships, and be equipped to live for Jesus in every part of life. Our youth ministry exists to glorify God by making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ.

We believe that true life and purpose are found in knowing Jesus. That's why our goal is to help young people engage with God's Word, understand the gospel, and be transformed by the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We do this through Bible teaching, small groups, worship, and a strong community where we strive to ensure every teenager is known and cared for.

Figtree Youth isn't just an event or a social club—it's a place where real faith is nurtured and real friendships are formed. Whether your child is exploring Christianity or has been following Jesus for years, they are welcome here. We partner with parents in this journey, recognising that God has given you the primary role in raising your children in the faith.

We're excited for your family to be part of Figtree Youth, and we pray that it will be a place of encouragement, challenge, and spiritual growth for your child. Please don't hesitate to get in contact with either of us if you have any questions.

In Christ,

Peter Lenehan + Ruth Smith
Youth and Young Adult Ministers
Figtree Anglican Church

HOW DO WE SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE?

01. FAITH

Figtree Youth helps young people come to know and love God. We want them to know who Jesus is and what he has done for them.

03. MENTORS

We support the positive development of many young people in our community, whether or not they share the faith of their leaders.

02. COMMUNITY

We know there are many challenges young people in our community are facing with their mental health, social needs, and life goals. We want to serve our broader community by providing a safe and fun place for young people to come and belong to.

**SERVE ONE ANOTHER HUMBLY IN LOVE. FOR THE ENTIRE
LAW IS FULFILLED IN KEEPING THIS ONE COMMAND:
“LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.”**

GALATIANS 5:13–14





03

WHAT WE DO

FIGTREE YOUTH WEEKLY PROGRAMS

FRIDAY YOUTH GROUP

Every Friday, we provide a safe and fun space for young people to connect, build friendships, and hear the amazing news of Jesus.

We run two programs:

- Junior (Years 6–8)
- Senior (Years 9–12)

SCHEDULE:

6:00pm – Junior Arrival
6:15pm – Junior Big Group Time (BGT) (like a church service)
6:45pm – Games
7:30pm – Junior Pick-up | Senior Drop-off
7:45pm – Senior Big Group Time (BGT)
8:15pm – Games
9:30pm – Senior Pick-up

FUEL (Sunday Bible Study)

FUEL is our youth Bible study ministry, designed to help young people ask big questions about God, grow in their faith, and learn from His Word together. Before heading into the 6 PM church service, we also share a meal as a community.

SCHEDULE:

4:30pm – Bible Study
5:30pm – Dinner
6:00pm – Church

IGNITE (Annual Youth Camp)

IGNITE is our week-long annual youth camp, packed with fun, deep friendships, and gospel teaching. We have a dedicated parent info pack for Ignite, and we strongly encourage every young person to come along—it's a highlight of the year!



ACTIVITIES AT FIGTREE YOUTH

WHAT DO WE DO AT YOUTH GROUP? HEAPS OF STUFF!

Karaoke



Dance parties



Chill nights



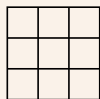
Scavenger hunts



Pizza making



9 square



Murder mystery



Soccer



**We love
creating an
environment
where youth can
build friendships
and feel at
home.**

Activities we run on Friday Nights include:

- Icebreakers and Team Games: Dodgeball, capture the flag, relays, and creative challenges. Anything to burn some energy and build friendships.
- Themed Nights: Dress-up nights, mystery events, scavenger hunts, and talent shows.
- Service and Outreach: Volunteering opportunities, evangelism training, and mission nights.
- Creative and Challenge Games: Escape rooms, scavenger hunts, or trivia nights to encourage teamwork and problem-solving.
- Chill and Board Games: A relaxed space with cards, board games, and conversation for those who prefer quieter activities.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe in Jesus for Everyone! We believe knowing Jesus is what we were made for and that the Christian faith positively transforms lives.

Figtree Youth is a ministry of Figtree Anglican Church. We are part of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney. In our ministries, youth will be taught about the Christian faith in accordance with the beliefs of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney. You can find out more about these [here](#).

The reason we do this, is that we want youth in our community to know Jesus so they can start living life to the full *now* (John 10:10). We want youth to hear and respond to the good news which is...

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM, WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

JOHN 3:16



SOCIAL MEDIA CONTACT WITH LEADERS

PARENT INFORMATION

Permission form
here -->



OVERVIEW

At Figtree Youth, we use social media for advertising, logistics, and encouraging young people in their faith during the week. We are aware that social media is a constantly evolving and complex space.

We believe making families aware of our guidelines regarding online communication between youth and leaders will lead to the safe and beneficial use of social media in our ministry. Below are our key guidelines. For full details please see the [Diocesan Social Contact Policy](#).

SUMMARY

YEARS 6-8: No social media contact to occur with leaders. Youth may follow the ministry's official Instagram and Facebook accounts at parents' discretion.

YEARS 9-10: Official group chats moderated by leaders permissible. Consent form required.

YEARS 11-12: Official group chats moderated by leaders permissible. Consent form required. Direct messaging initiated by youth with leaders of the same gender permissible, but significant pastoral conversations are requested to occur in person on Friday nights.



2025 SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

- **Years 6–8:** Youth in Years 6–8 will not have any social media contact with leaders.
- **From Year 9:** With parental consent, youth may be invited into official Figtree Youth Facebook group chats. These groups are used for logistics, encouragement, and prayer. Leaders are responsible for moderating the group.
- **Parental Consent:** Parents must complete the consent form for their children to participate in these groups. Consent forms can be found [here](#).
- **Access to Information:** Youth will not miss out on logistical details if they are not part of these groups. A weekly parent email will be sent containing essential information.
- **Online Conduct:** By joining these groups, youth are expected to uphold **'Figtree Youth Expectations'** in their online interactions (see next page). Relevant expectations will be communicated when youth join the group.
- **Addressing Concerns:** If concerns arise online (e.g. bullying, unkind or inappropriate joking, offensive content), leaders will inform the Youth Ministers, who will communicate directly with parents. Parents and youth are also encouraged to contact the ministry if they are concerned about any online spaces youth are involved in.
- **Leadership Oversight:** The Youth Ministers are informed of all groups, youth leaders are responsible for the moderation of any groups they are in.
- **Online Friend Status:** From Year 11, youth are able to friend, follow, or add leaders.
- **Leader Boundaries:**
 - Leaders will never create a group with students only of the opposite gender.
 - Leaders will not initiate a 'friend', 'follow', or 'add' for youth in our community.
 - Leaders will not create multiple groups with different sets of youth to avoid any perception of favouritism.
 - Leaders will not use social media platforms for leader-to-youth interactions that allow anonymity or delete posts (e.g. Snapchat).
- **Direct Messaging:**
 - Years 11–12: Direct messaging initiated by youth of the same gender is permissible between leaders and youth. Messaging should primarily be for logistics and encouragement.
 - Before Year 11: If a youth initiates private messaging, leaders will respond kindly and ask to continue the conversation in person at church, unless there is a risk of significant harm.
 - Safety Concerns: If a youth contacts a leader and discloses any risk of significant harm, the leader will inform the Youth Ministry as soon as possible or call 000 in an emergency.

BEHAVIOUR GUIDELINES



We recognise that looking after young people will inevitably involve coaching them and helping them grow in maturity. Below are the principles we follow when we recognise youth are acting in a way that is out of step with the expectations we set at Figtree Youth.

- **Respect before discipline** - We prioritise building positive relationships with youth to foster mutual respect. We focus on spending positive time with youth to reduce the likelihood we will need to use disciplinary measures. In a relationship of respect, we can do so much including lead, guide, nurture, and even appropriately rebuke. Youth (usually) listen to those they respect.
- **Clarity** - When we decide on a behaviour management plan, we make sure everyone affected is clear on what that plan is, and agree to review it in 24 hours. We agree as a leadership team about how serious a behaviour is. Where behaviours are serious or repeated, we collaborate with the parents of the camper. We take proportionate responses to behavioural concerns recognising some challenging behaviours are part of normal teenage development.
- **Collaboration** - We don't make discipline calls on our own. We're all different and may lean towards over-, or under-, reacting. We chat to a senior leader to sense-check how we're feeling and come up with a plan in collaboration with them, our team, and families where appropriate.

FIGTREE YOUTH EXPECTATIONS

We expect everyone who attends Our Ministries to support a positive culture.

GRACE

We are a community of grace.
We love and forgive each other just as Jesus has loved and forgiven us.

BE PRESENT

We spend time with the people who are here.

RESPECT

We respect each other and our leaders in both word and action.

STAY WITH YOUR CREW

We stay with the crew. We don't wander off alone. We bring everyone along.

RESPECT PERSONAL SPACE

Hi-five, fist-bump every day!
We respect others and don't push, shove, touch, or hug them without permission.

GOOD TALK

Both publicly and in private, we speak about others in a positive way.
We don't make rude or sexual jokes or speak so that others feel uncomfortable.

NO BULLYING

If someone asks you to stop, you stop.

If you're not feeling good about something that happened at youth, you can talk to any adult here and we can help you out - whatever it is. There's nothing too bad that can't be talked about.





PHONES & PHOTOGRAPHY

Context

Phone usage presents three main concerns we want to manage in partnership with parents:

- 1) We want youth engaged and connected with those around them.
- 2) We want appropriate photographs to be taken, that have youth and parental consent.
- 3) We want to ensure internet is not accessed inappropriately and youth are not exposed to inappropriate content.

Information for Parents

- We encourage youth to leave their device at home when they come to Youth or FUEL
- As a leadership team, we will take reasonable efforts to ensure internet is not inappropriately accessed whilst under our care
- We want to be upfront with parents that we are not able to provide direct supervision of internet use during our ministries. If youth in our ministries are ever concerned by the internet use of another young person, they can raise this with their leaders. We also encourage parents to contact us if they have any concerns.
- Youth are not to put photos online of other youth without their consent. Any photos uploaded must be respectful.
- Youth who use photography or internet inappropriately may be asked to not attend youth for a period of time.



ROLES



YOUTH MINISTERS

Figtree Youth is overseen by the Youth Ministers of Figtree Anglican Church, Ruth Smith and Peter Lenehan. These are the staff members of Figtree Anglican Church responsible for ensuring our youth ministry is run to the highest standards. The Youth Ministers are responsible to the Senior Minister of Figtree Anglican Church (Robin Kinstead). If parents or youth have any concerns they can raise this with the Youth Ministers or Senior Minister.

YEAR PARENTS

Year parents provide support to our leadership team. While you probably won't see them around at Youth or FUEL, they provide vital support to our teams. Year parents for our Year groups are: Cathie & Bruce Price (Year 6), Dave & Amanda Humphries (Year 7), Carrie & Matt Ball (Year 8), Richard & Georgia Maris (Year 9), Lousanne & Rudie Boshoff (Year 10), Mark & Anna Dombkins (Year 11), Scott & Anne Simpson (Year 12).

TEAM LEADERS

Team leaders help with the logistical and practical organisation of Figtree Youth. Parents are encouraged to speak to Team Leaders of their years regarding questions, concerns and positive feedback! Team Leaders for our years are:
 Year 6 - Jackson & Chante
 Year 7 - Joelle & Jackson
 Year 8 - Byron & Molly
 Year 9 - Daniel & Cait
 Year 10 - Bronte & Chris
 Year 11- Jarryd & Phoebe
 Year 12 - Chelsea

LEADERS

Leaders provide the direct support and supervision of our youth along with running epic activities, bible studies, and so much more. Our leaders are the heartbeat of our ministry and we simply couldn't do it without them! We encourage parents to get to know the leaders of their youth by coming along to parent nights we hold at least once a year.



MEET THE TEAM



Youth Leader 2025 Team

Front Row: Rosa, Lizzie, Joelle, Callia, Molly, Ruth, Josh H, Harry B

Second-Front: Chloe, Hannah Stephanie, Anthony, Pete, Phoebe, Mikayla, Josh F

Middle: Tom A, Cait, Jarryd, Annie, Bronte

Second-Back: Riley, Molly, Harm, Hayden, Chris, Harry H, Chelsea, Byron

Back Row: Noah, Tom, Ethan S, Joel

Not Present: Jackson H, Daniel M, Hannah M, Josh M, Byron W, Ethan W, Sam, Nathaniel

Year 6 Year 7 Year 8 Year 9 Year 10 Year 11 Year 12, Youth Ministers



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