

OVERVIEW

Addiscombe Youth Club (AYC) was created in January 2020 by parents who recognised the need for our young people in the community (age 11-15). This age group is very mobile/social media reliant and an age that does not have a social environment to safely meet and have fun. The youth club is open to all young people from our community and school friends for example are very welcome. Part of coming to AYC encourages healthy communication between the young people.

AYC is not just about socialising, we also open up discussions and tackle issues surrounding their mental wellbeing, especially in this current climate.

We promote

- Kindness
- Friendship
- Respect
- Communication
- Community Values

AYC aims to incorporate the Christian values and keep church alive through attraction rather than promotion. AYC carries the loving message acceptance and guidance through whatever we do.

AYC has 60 families on our mailing list. All information via email and we open WA groups only for trips with parent's contacts. Our E-mails include session dates information on our schedule, charities we are supporting, parish information and reminders for raffle prizes. It has been very useful to use google forms to collect important information for trips, gather survey information to make sure we are meeting our Young people's needs. All registration forms from September will take this format-easily filled in from a mobile phone.

Admission is turn up on the night and we have a group of volunteers. The DBS process is much easier, and we are very grateful for the support for safeguarding at the diocese for their help. All our volunteers have followed the safer recruitment process, obtained DBS certificates and have completed the mandatory training recommend by the Catholic, safeguarding, standards, agency. Some of our volunteers are first aid trained. I have completed Mental Health First Aid training which was so very useful and have lists of useful organisations.

Our sessions in the large hall on a Friday follow a relaxed format starting at 19.30pm with registration there is £2 entry fee this includes a strip of raffle tickets. Raffle is held at the end of the evening and is a firm favourite. Raffle prizes are donations of Toiletries, sweets/treats, socks and stationary (we ask for specific items- to be helpful to young people in this climate when money is tight). Big raffles at discos/Christmas also include vouchers for meals out/cinema/amazon -again useful prizes' for young people. Movement in school can be restrictive we encourage young people to move

around the hall, use the garden (being mindful to our neighbours) be relaxed or loud and laugh!. Gaming station is not that popular but we have it. Board games are used. Badminton net in large/outside in warmer weather and table tennis in small hall. Crafts are popular we always have marker and pens along with positive/teenage friendly stickers our bigger crafts are well thought out and really enjoyed monster energy drink cans with lights is very popular with everybody. Relaxed chats often happen in the PRC room which is a quieter space. We link our phones to speaker to play pop music throughout the evening. It is noticed that our young people have a deep sense of equality and fairness which can be explored and tested within our environment. AYC wants to support our young members in anyway we can- in the female toilets we provide a supply of sanitary products these are getting used. AYC had Sugar Rush (Tuck shop) which provides us a steady income. Our sweets and drinks mainly come from supermarkets and a Local Londis who provides us with very good prices allowing us to make profit.

Aswell as our sessions in the hall we can see the benefit of taking the young people on these trips. These trips can provide experiences that might be out of budget for families if not subsidizes, give families opportunities to spend time with other siblings, provide respite for guardians, use young people's energy and give families talking points about new experiences. This year we have added to our AYC schedule by doing some new events- remembering our young people can be with us up to 5 years it is important to provide a verity of experiences for them to interact with. Another benefit for being out and about is to see how well AYC members bond irrespective of age, gender, school – this builds self-confidence.

AYC is inclusive and try to keep costs a minimum but we are clear cost should not keep our young people from attending and if we are able to help we will. The budget we receive from our parish is mainly used to lessen the costs of trips for parents which helps give Our Young People experiences they might not have. This budget is put to very good use, and we are very grateful to have this. Our Profit also goes back to our young people by buying equipment and subsidizing trips. AYC also have the use of the hall at no charge again this enables us to use profit for our Young People. When looking at trips/outings it is part of our process that we negotiate the best price possible often getting discounts as we are a Youth Club or for Group bookings.

Bouncy assault course and Ice cream van as our end of year celebration (subsidized by AYC and sponsored by LMB)

Our residential to windmill hill was fantastic so much laughter, growth and maturity. Two nights away in PGL activity camp. Thank you to our social club who pay for the coach with makes the weekend manageable for parents to afford.

To keep the link between AYC and our church community we helped at the October fair this brought lots of our member to help as we had rotas for various jobs.....

Our Christmas trip was to Oxygen trampolining trip flowed by McDonalds which is a firm favourite again we used our profits to make this manageable.

As a big group we got discounted tickets to Fairfield halls to see the pantomime.

January we hired in a self-defence group in on a Saturday afternoon- this was a very informative and energetic afternoon.

Paintballing was fully booked and at a cost to parents but heavily subsidised using our budget was a fantastic full day 9-3pm the weather was dry and it was really a great day!

Working with the social club helping with hospitality opportunities gave our young people great sense of achievement and helped them learn new skills.

Some members helped with the big lunch.

Still to come we have our annual PGL and paddleboarding as our end of term activity at pinewood scouts activity centre who have generously given us a discount.

In conclusion, we believe that opening the Youth Club and providing a safe friendly environment for the young people in our community continues to work well. We constantly receive positive feedback from the parents, and we just love that we can provide this space for our young people. On this part, we would like to thank Fr Keith and Fr Tomaz for all their support in helping make this happen.