



Scripture Union

Key considerations for engaging with children and young people outside while socially distancing in England

It's a real privilege to do this work. Doing it well and safely will help people to see Jesus in us.

Scripture Union has produced a range of content and activities which may help you in your work. We have created this document to help and encourage churches to consider how to work safely with children and young people as we leave lockdown. We hope and pray that, together, these will benefit many children and young people as they continue to face the challenges that COVID-19 has brought to their lives.

Further details can be found at su.org.uk/leavinglockdown

Scripture Union takes no responsibility for how users of this document interpret or apply it. You must ensure that you operate within the law, adhere to social distancing guidelines, and meet your specific duties and responsibilities to stakeholders.



ABC

THE BASICS

- Check local and national government guidelines regularly, and just before your event, as they can be changed at short notice with local restrictions implemented.
- We suggest **activities are held outside** and in a space where you can guarantee that you will be the **only user**.*
- Although larger groups of up to 15 are allowed, we suggest that activities are run for groups of up to six people. There will also need to be physical distancing within each group.
- If each group of six can operate as distinctly separate cohorts from all other groups at all times, if your space is large enough, you could consider running multiple groups.

Operating in this way you could run, for example, four independent groups of six in one area the size of a football pitch.

We suggest that the maximum number of children, young people and leaders should be 30 and that groups do not share coaches or facilitators.

* Unless you are running a trail type activity. A trail is an unmanned, family led walk or run on pathways with activity stations along the way. In this circumstance, the 'rule of six' would apply.



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PLANNING

- It is important to check that you have permission from the landowner or venue owner for the activity and that the facility or space is COVID-Secure.
- Complete your own full and detailed risk assessment, considering the most recent guidance for COVID-19. You can read the current regulations here <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> You should also refer to your denominational guidance if relevant.
- Consider how pre-registration for the activity is managed and how you will have enough contact details for the NHS Test and Trace service.
- Carefully plan your communications, thinking how you can reassure families that you are compliant with legislation, have risk assessed your activities and have put the safety and wellbeing of their child first. Make sure you communicate that no one can attend if they have symptoms of Coronavirus, or if they are isolating or quarantining.
- Don't try to do too much or do it for too long. Plan break periods between different sessions using the same space, without mixing groups.



SAFETY FIRST

- Review your safeguarding policy, and ensure it is fully updated and implemented for this context.
- Consider how the NHS Test and Trace service and accompanying guidelines applies to your context.
- Check with your insurance company that you are covered to run these activities.
- Ensure everyone brings their own water bottle.
- Take advice on your approach to first aid and check that your policy allows adaptations to the delivery of emergency first aid in a COVID-19 environment. It is important to consider the different implications of first aid if parents are, or are not, present during an activity, including the use of PPE if symptoms are displayed.



RUNNING THE SESSION

- Plan activities where everyone can easily keep two metres apart, unless they are part of the same household.
- Equipment sharing should be kept to a minimum.
- Consider the distances travelled to the session by both team members and participants; it might be best to 'keep it local', ideally within walking or cycling distance.
- If someone displays symptoms of Coronavirus during the session they should go to an isolated space and return home as soon as possible.
- Toilets, if available, need to follow current hygiene guidelines, and you will need a clear toilet policy.
- Plan how you will sanitize equipment regularly and in between sessions.
- Wash or sanitise hands often, and we suggest that every time someone leaves and returns to the activity space, they should also wash or sanitise their hands.
- You will need a strategy so that physical distancing can be kept during the drop-off and pick-up of participants.