



# Scripture Union

## Key considerations for engaging with children and young people while socially distancing in Wales

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](https://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 Welsh government guidelines regularly, and just before your event, as they can be changed at short notice with local restrictions implemented. Guidelines for sport, recreation and leisure can be found [here](#). Information for churches can be found [here](#).
- We suggest **activities are held outside**. Welsh government guidelines state that activities must be held in a space where you can guarantee that you will be the **only user**.\*
- Children under the age of 11 do not need to socially distance. Therefore, your risk assessment and activity plan should take into account the ages of the children who will be present.
- Although larger groups of up to 30 are allowed, we suggest for the assurance of those taking part and for those seeing the activity that activities for over 11s are run in groups of up to 6 people. If each group can operate as distinctly separate cohorts from all other groups at all times, and your space is large enough, you could consider running multiple groups at the same time.

Physical distancing would also need to be maintained within each group.

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

The current maximum number of children, young people and leaders is 30 and we suggest 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 we would suggest, the 'rule of six' would apply.



# Scripture Union



## PLANNING

- It is important to check 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.wales/coronavirus>. You should also refer to your denominational guidance if relevant.
- Consider how everyone could pre-register for the activity and how you will have enough contact details for the Welsh government's Test, Trace, Protect 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 in 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 Welsh government's Test, Trace, Protect service and accompanying guidelines apply 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

- Be clear on who is accountable for the activity.
- Plan activities where everyone can easily keep 2 metres apart, unless they are part of the same household, or exclusively under the age of 12, and in line with current government guidelines.
- 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 where possible.
- If someone displays symptoms of Coronavirus during the session, they should go to an isolated space and return home as soon as possible.
- If toilets are available, you will need a clear toilet policy that adheres to current hygiene guidelines.
- Plan how you will sanitise equipment regularly and in between each session.
- 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.