Your church’s name

Dear parent/carer,

**Re: Consent Form**

We have updated our consent form for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We would very much appreciate it if you could fill in this form **as fully as possible**, to allow us to provide the best care, encouragement and support to your child while they attend the group. We want to ensure that all our communication with you and your child occurs in a way that you and your child are happiest with. It is also important that we know any additional needs, medical conditions or allergies your child has.

**General communication**

We don’t want to overload you with communication, but ask permission that we can contact your child about group events and other youth-related church events.

Generally, communication will be through the @\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ group on Instagram. If we are messaging a smaller group or individual for any reason (for example a group member is leading a game at the group), our usual means of communication is directly messaging them through our youth Instagram account. This has multiple administrators, including all the leaders and our Safeguarding Officer and all messages can be seen by all of them. Our aim in doing this is that an adult never communicates with your child outside the group setting without other people knowing that it is happening. Sometimes we will email a child but copy this email to you as parent/carer. For older young people, there may be communication via a group (e.g. small group, worship band) WhatsApp, always with two leaders as members of the group.

We also ask permission to send details of events to your home, for example if we are planning a social event or residential and your child hasn’t picked up a form. We might also call your home phone number to remind your child the event is coming up. This is often the best way to let a young person know they are cared for and have a place in the group.

**Pastoral welfare section**

To provide pastoral support, we would appreciate being able to contact your child to ask, in as gentle a way as possible, ‘How are things going?’. For this reason, we ask your permission to contact your child via a direct call to your phone number. The second option is using your child’s email address but we would copy this email to you. The third option, for group members with Instagram, is to contact your child via the youth Instagram account.

Rarely, we might ask to meet up with your child 1-to-1. This will always be organised publicly and **the meeting will always happen in a public place.** A one-to-one meeting will always be male leader with male young person and female leader with female young person. All our leaders are DBS-checked. Meetings would only be occasional, not regular, unless for mentoring or there is some sort of pastoral emergency and in that case, we will inform you that the meetings are happening and even then, meetings should only continue for a short time.

**Group Meetings Online**

At the present time, we do have regular group meetings online. We ask for permission then for your child to attend meetings via Zoom and we may also have Instagram Live meetings where young people watch content, and their names and comments can be seen by other people watching the livestream. These are excellent ways to keep in touch when attending meetings isn’t possible. There will always be at least two regular DBS-checked leaders present and leaders will never contact your child directly over webcam.

**Out of the Ordinary Events**

There may be times when we communicate directly with your child on their mobile, for example, if they get lost on a social event. If your child texts to ask if an event is happening, we will probably simply reply to say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ and won’t change platform to do so.

**Keeping in Touch**

Do please get in touch if you have any questions about the group or this health and permission form.

Best wishes,