Introduction

Thank you for your interest in Aurora Children. This document should answer all your questions about the course and explain what you need to do in order to enrol.

Aurora children is run by Yorkshire North & East Methodist District It is an 8-month course suited to volunteer children’s workers and leaders with no formal children's work qualification. Although the course is not formally accredited, St Peter’s College awards a Certificate in Children's Ministry to those who complete a number of written assignments at academic level 3 or 4 (equivalent to A-Level or first year degree).

Placement

You need to be working with children in a Christian context, placements must be approved by the course directors. Although we do not add up your face-to-face hours, it is expected that, at a minimum, you will be involved in fortnightly meetings.

Course Outline

All training sessions will take place at Central Church Methodist/URC, 14 North St, Goole DN14 5QT.

Saturday sessions will run from 10:00am-4:30pm, and evening sessions from 7:00-9:00pm

Dates

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| Saturday 12th September, 10:00am – 4:30pm | Saturday 21st January, 7:00 – 9:00pm |
| Thursday 17th September, 7:00 – 9:00pm | Thursday 11th February, 7:00 – 9:00pm |
| Thursday 15th October, 7:00 – 9:00pm | Thursday 18th March, 7:00 – 9:00pm |
| Thursday 19th November, 7:00 – 9:00pm | Thursday 15th April, 7:00 – 9:00pm |
| Thursday 3rd December | Thursday 20thth May, 7:00 – 9:00pm  |
| Thursday 16th January, 7:00 – 9:00pm | Sat 22nd May, 10:00am – 4:30pm (final session) |

The deadline for submission of the St Peter’s College assessed Certificate-level work will be midnight on 1st July. The deadline for the journal / portfolio work collated throughout the year will be 5pm on July 1st, place of submission TBD.

Levels

Aurora Children will be taught at academic level 4, which is equivalent to the first year of a degree course. In order to achieve the St Peter’s College Certificate, your work will have to meet the assessment criteria which will be available in the Student Handbooks at the start of the course. We are keen that all students achieve some recognition from completing this course, therefore students unable to reach this level may still be awarded an Aurora Certificate stating the student’s achievements through the course.

Line Manager or supervisor

You may already have a line manager or supervisor at your church. If that is not the case, then you will need to arrange this with your church leadership before commencing the course.

The line manager / supervisor should be a part of the leadership of your church and will:

* meet with you at least once a month to discuss your role and help you manage your responsibilities
* check that you are managing the requirements of the course, and feedback to the course directors appropriately
* ensure that you have enough opportunities to complete your portfolio, and provide relevant opportunities where appropriate
* be responsible for acquiring a current DBS Enhanced Disclosure for you (less than three years old)
* contribute towards your final assessment through the completion of observations and reports
* ensure that you are released to attend all of the training sessions
* communicate with Aurora children about any concerns or issues regarding your work or the course
* ensure the student has spiritual and pastoral support in place, e.g. attends a home group.

Mentors

At the start of the course you will be encouraged to find a mentor. This will be a local professional children's worker who will be there to support and advise you in relation to your ministry. You are encouraged to meet up with your mentor within the first month of the course, and then to decide for yourselves how often to meet throughout the year. You may find it helpful to have someone you can call on outside your church setting, someone you can discuss your portfolio or children’s group with, or just for a friendly chat. It might be a phone call, email or Skype – whatever works best for both of you.

Modules

* 1. **Children's Ministry and the children's Worker**
1. What is children's Ministry?
* Children today and their context
1. Values of children's ministry
* Relational discipleship
* Spiritual formation
* Educational
* Empowering
* Equal opportunities
1. Why am I involved in children's Ministry?
2. Gifts and skills of a children's Worker
3. Personal growth, support and pastoral care
	1. **Understanding Young People and children's Ministry Practice**
4. Theology of Children
5. Children's Identity
6. Faith development
7. Needs of children
8. Development theory and learning styles
	1. Discipleship, evangelism, mission and worship within various approaches to children's ministry
		* Group work
		* Creative arts
		* Sport
		* Residentials
		* Mentoring
		* Detached work
		* Schools
	2. Children and Mental Health
9. **Managing the ministry**
	1. Children in the church
	2. Social / New Media
	3. Vocation
	4. Programme planning
	5. Sustainability
	6. Managing a team of volunteers: recruitment, supervision & training
	7. Legal: Child protection policies, safeguarding, risk assessment, insurance

Cost

The cost of the course for 2020-2021 is £250 (discounts and bursaries are available, please request details from Kate Ellarby, admin@methodistyouth.org.uk). The YNE Methodist District will contribute one third of the cost for those within the Methodist church and district. It is hoped that your local church or circuit will pay the remainder, but in some cases, it may be appropriate for you to support yourself in some way. If you are from an Anglican church, you may also approach St Matthias Trust (www.stmatthiastrust.org.uk) before 31st May 2020. They offer small grants to those embarking in education which contributes to the advancement of the Church of England.

Contact us

You may get in touch with us if you have questions about enrolling on Aurora Children by using these email addresses: victoria@methodistyouth.org.uk or richard.ellarby@methodistyouth.co.uk