

Children and Young People at Redland Meeting

Redland is an All Age Community: everyone who attends our meeting, whatever their age, is an integral part of it. The light shines in all of us. But we shine in different ways, and holding that diversity with loving care is part of what makes us Quaker.

Here at Redland we invite everyone into the main meeting room upstairs at 11am. For the first 15 minutes we share the silence, and any ministry which arises. We believe this is a vital part of being a worshipping community and, for the children, part of their introduction to Quakerism.

Redland Meeting seeks to be inclusive in this shared start to meeting for worship. Some parents may choose to encourage young children to be still and quiet during the first 15 minutes; others may offer books or soft toys to keep little ones quietly entertained. We acknowledge that it can feel difficult if children are finding it hard to uphold/take part in the quiet and calm of the meeting, and no one will mind if you take an upset child outside the room to walk up and down for a few minutes.

As with everyone in meeting, children with mobile phones are asked to turn them off during Meeting for Worship and Children's Meeting. Learning to appreciate a time of silence is part of being a Quaker community.

At 11.15 children are invited to go downstairs. Children's meeting, for children aged 5+, is held in the big community room, under the main meeting room, along the corridor opposite the toilets. Children's meeting is held in term-time, with two adults (at least one of whom is DBS checked) responsible for holding the group. Older children who prefer to stay upstairs for the next 45 minutes are of course welcome to do so.

The crèche, for babies and toddlers up to age 5, is held in the smaller room downstairs. The crèche runs throughout the year, with one adult always on duty. Parents are free to return to main meeting upstairs, although they are welcome to stay in both the crèche and children's meeting if preferred.

Once a month Redland also has a teen meeting, for secondary age children and young people. This often occurs off-site, for example we have held a scavenger hunt in the city centre, and pot-making elsewhere. We are also part of a Quaker Youth Development project in the west of England. Please do ask for information if you have children of the right age.

At 12pm children attending children's meeting return upstairs to share with adults their experience of meeting. Crèche parents and carers can come downstairs and take charge of their children at this point. All are welcome to return to listen to notices, the appeal and to share tea and coffee.

We have events throughout the year, geared specifically towards children and young people, and to Redland as an All Age Community. These include a Christmas theatre trip, All Age Worship approximately once a term, a biannual residential for the whole meeting and much more. Sharing Lunch is held after Meeting on every second Sunday of the month and is open to all, with a special Christmas lunch with cabaret.

The children and young person's team at Redland comprises various parents, carers and elders with oversight – usually we number about 5 on the team and hold several meetings throughout the year to

ensure that children's provision runs smoothly and inclusively. We try to keep everyone informed, but not overwhelmed, via email and personal conversation, and through a termly sharing lunch.

If you would be interested in helping please do let us know! Currently the children and young person's lead is Helen Adshead and other members include Cato Pedder and Helen Chambers. They can be contacted via the Redland Meeting clerk: redland.clerk@bristolquakers.org.uk

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