

Cityside Baptist Church Children and Youth Overview of Group Organisation

Reviewed September 2016

This overview will need updating in 2017 to reflect changes currently in process of being worked out

Sunday morning groups:

We aim to ensure that each non-holiday Sunday during the school term there are activities for children and youth that support their spiritual formation and sense of belonging and relationship at Cityside, that are age and need appropriate, and connected with the ethos and interests of the wider Cityside congregation. These may be provided as part of an intergenerational service or in age-based groups which operate in a separate space for part of Sunday morning.

Xplorers

2-5 year olds

Age eligible: 2 years old

When and where: second part of the service, upstairs in the large mezzanine room

Under 2s are very welcome to be in the Xplorers' room too, as long as they are accompanied by a supervising adult. Please be supportive of what is happening with the group, and help your child to be part of things where possible.

Quest

Years 1-4 at school, mainly 5-9 year olds

Age eligible: Year 0/1 at school, aged 5

When and where: second part of the service, hall space nearest Mt Eden Road

Odyssey

Years 5-8 at school, mainly 9-13 year olds

Age eligible: Year 5 or aged 9, whichever comes first

When and where: second part of the service, hall space nearest kitchen

Year 9s and 10s are welcome to be part of both Odyssey and Matrix if they do not wish to stay in the whole service.

Matrix

Years 9-13 at school, mainly 13-17 year olds

Age eligible: Year 9 or aged 13, whichever comes first

When and where: after the service in the basement

Children and youth are welcome to stay on at any group for an extra year or two until they are ready to move to the next group.

We acknowledge that no way of grouping suits every child; if there are things that we can do to help your child to settle within their group, please talk to one of the people responsible for organising the Children and Youth ministry.

People Resourcing

The children's groups at Cityside are intentionally not a "drop-off" creche. They are designed as a spiritual formation experience, with opportunities for parents to be alongside their own children as they interact with God and other Citysiders, and to build longitudinal relationships with the other Cityside children as others in the community of Cityside.

If children come regularly, we expect that parents will support us by being on the roster at least once a term. If every parent is willing to do one (and occasionally two) roster slots a term, then we have ample capacity to cover for people with ill-health or post-baby.

At Cityside we try very hard not to place requirements on people to be part of rosters, but at the same time we need to look after the people who are making the formation programme for our children happen each week, and want to ensure that the load is shared by many people instead of being unfairly placed on a few people.

There are many ways people can be involved:

- a) You can be on the Children and Youth Planning Team, which meets about once a term to put together an overview of the programme. People from this group are the Children and Youth Curators on Sundays, preparing for and leading the different groups.
- b) You can be a Helper on the roster – no preparation required – just turn up a few minutes before the service to find out from the curator how you can support the session.
- c) Older teenagers are invited to be Xplorer leaders if they would like to be, and lead the 2 to 5 year old group (no planning involved).
- d) Pretty much anything else you'd like to offer is gratefully received! Resource preparation and tidying away afterwards, one-off curations, being a guest speaker...

Regular not-on-Sunday Groups:

Fusion

A mid-week connection, mentoring and support group for older teenagers and twenty-somethings, based at Cityside. Usually on Thursdays. Exploring the intersection between life and faith, and practices to accompany spiritual formation. This group is aimed at those in Year 12 and above, but 15 year olds who feel ready are also very welcome.

Connect

Social and connection events for Year 6 and older, usually meeting on Fridays fortnightly (about four times a term), based at Cityside. The focus age group is adolescence, Years 7-10, but the edges are open to Year 6s and older teens who would like to be involved in an intergenerational relationship building, mentoring role.

Kinetic

Active and social events for primary-aged children in Years 0-6, aiming for two events per term for each child: ones that span the whole Year 0-6 age range, or perhaps separate events especially for Year 0-3 kids and especially for Year 4-6 kids.