

Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa New Zealand

Children and Young People's Support (CYPS) Committee Job description

Role

The Children and Young People's Support Committee works to support Aotearoa/New Zealand Quakers in truly valuing and prioritising children, young people and their families, putting them 'at the centre' especially in Worship Groups and gatherings such as Summer Gathering and Yearly Meeting.

Responsibilities

- Support Meetings who wish to establish or improve their Children's Meeting.
- Support Meetings who wish to establish or improve their outreach to young people.
- Support Meetings who wish to establish or improve their outreach to families.
- Be a point of contact for questions and concerns that pertain to children, young people and families.
- Work with and provide ongoing support for the Junior Young Friends (JYF) coordinator
- Keep connections with Young Friends
- Liaise with other Yearly Meeting Committees when appropriate.
- Clarify legal issues regarding the caring of other's children and the care of young people.
- Report to Yearly Meeting through Documents in Advance.
- Ensure that the committee's website page is kept up to date.

DEFINITIONS

This committee defines children as aged 0 to year 8. JYFs as 13 to 17 years old/year 9 to year 13 (up to 17 year olds) YFs over 16. See minute 41 YM

2021 below

Preferred knowledge, skills, abilities and experience

- Knowledge of and experience with the needs of children and young people.
- Awareness of the resources available for Quaker children and young people.
- Familiarity with Summer Gathering, Junior Young Friends camps and Young Friends
- Familiarity with local worship groups and Yearly Meeting.
- Experience of Quaker processes.
- Able to communicate and work with a distributed committee using email, Zoom or other online communications software.

Appointment Length

Appointments are made by Yearly Meeting through the Nominations Committee's normal procedure.

The term of appointment will normally be three years with the possibility of being asked to serve for up to another three years.

The Committee consists of around 4-6 people. Others may be co-opted to assist with particular projects.

Expected Time required

1 hour meeting once a month on zoom at a time that suits members (90 minutes in special circumstances) Currently 6 weekly meetings by zoom are being trialed. (November 2021)

Extra time will be required to read and respond to emails and complete special committee tasks or projects.

An annual face-to-face meeting will be held if at all possible (eg at Summer Gathering or Yearly Meeting if the numbers allow).

YM 2021 Minute 41 Children and Young Peoples Support Committee

We have considered the proposal to raise to age 18 the age at which Junior Young Friends (JYF) move to Young Friends (YF). We have heard feedback that both current groups would support flexibility to allow the young person and their parents to make this choice for themselves. It was noted that the usual trend is for cohort groups to wish to move together.

However, legally a young person is designated as a child until age 18 and we

want to ensure that we are taking all reasonable and expected steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our young people.

We ask the children and Young People's support committee to further develop the draft code of conduct with the aim of moving towards the flexibility of young people choosing for themselves. This would require processes to be in place for building and sustaining a cultures of care for each other.

November 2021