

Avenue Community Church

Reading the Bible one-to-one with young people

Guidance for youth leaders

Prior to meeting with a young person one-to-one, the youth leader needs to have:

- Attended Avenue essential safeguarding training
- Read the Avenue safeguarding policy
- A DBS check completed by Avenue Community Church

Youth leaders are responsible to have completed and signed:

- Ground rules for one-to-ones with young people – signed by young person, parent/guardian, and youth leader
- Consent form for one-to-one sessions with young people – signed by young person, parent/guardian, and youth leader
- The appropriate risk assessment for meeting in a family home or a public place

Prior to the one-to-one meetings beginning:

- These forms need to be shared with the elders (email: elders@avenue.org.uk) and stored securely in keeping with the Avenue safeguarding policy.
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Guidance for the one-to-one meetings

1. Consider where is an appropriate place to meet – e.g. in the young person's home with parent/guardian present in the house, a café or other public space.
2. Avoid meeting in the leader's home. If there are issues surrounding where to meet, the leader must speak to the DSL and/or elders.
3. If you are meeting in the young person's home, ensure that another adult is present. Where greater confidentiality is required, ensure that the other adult is around and that the door is left open allowing line of sight into the room.
4. If you are meeting in a public place (e.g. a café), parents need to be informed and have given consent to where this meeting is taking place.
 - a. Best practice is to have another adult within the vicinity. If this is not possible/appropriate, ensure you are visible to other people in the space. This is to protect both the young person and the youth leader.
5. When arranging to meet with a young person:
 - a. You need parental consent for any messaging (e.g through WhatsApp)
 - b. If you are using any social media messaging service, always do this in a group chat – e.g. with other youth leaders in the group
 - c. Ideally, include a parent/guardian in any group chat

6. If you have any safeguarding concerns arising from these sessions, you must speak to Mike Warriner (Avenue DSL). If Mike is not available, speak to one of the deputy DSLs. If none are available, seek advice from an elder.
7. If a theological or pastoral issue arises, you should speak to the elders and seek guidance.
8. You must keep a record of all one-to-one meetings by completing the young person one-to-one record of session document – including date, venue and who was present.
9. Act in accordance set in the code of conduct in the Avenue safeguarding policy

Richard Brewster & David Harrison
December 2023

