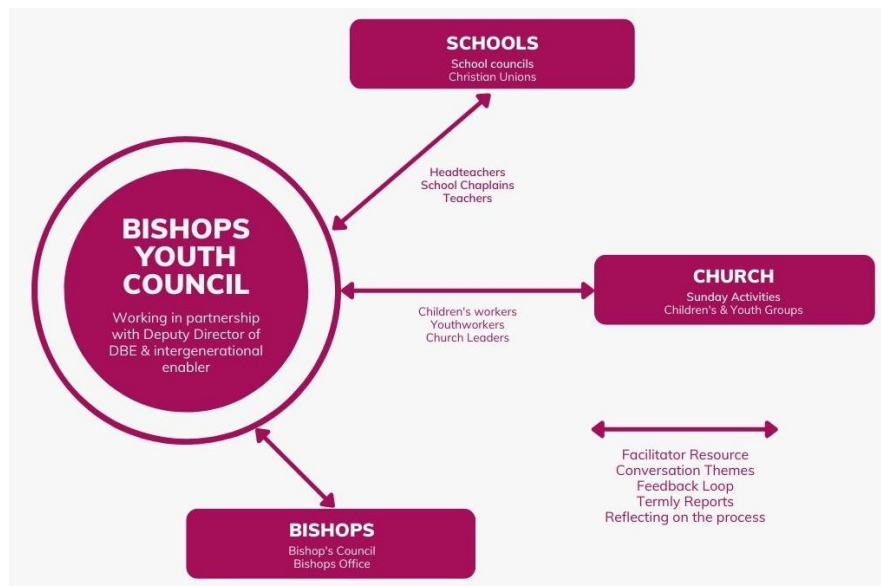


Bishops Children and Youth Council

We want to reimagine how we hear the voice of children and young people in the Diocese of Leicester. In partnership with schools and church-based groups, across a range of contexts, we will experiment with a series of listening groups and feedback loops.



What is a Listening Group?

A listening group is where a group of children and/or young people sit together in groups of 5-10 to share issues, ideas, and stories, in response to a set of questions / activities / statements.

Why are we running Listening Groups?

We are running listening groups in schools and churches throughout the Diocese of Leicester, as we want to hear, and respond to, the voice of children and young people more authentically.

Roles for Listening Group

Facilitator – Organises, hosts, and welcomes the listening group. Directs the meeting and gathers common responses to feedback.

Participants – Children and young people who are representative of their context (school or church).

Suggested outline for a Listening Group

(ideally, no longer than 30 mins!)

[2 min] Introduction:

- Welcome everybody
- Describe *why* they are taking place... *because through listening carefully, we want to learn what children and young people in Leicester Diocese want to do something about*
- Pray (if appropriate in your context)

*God, we thank you that you are here with us.
We thank you for listening to and responding to our prayers.
God, in this listening group, we ask you to give us -
Grace to listen deeply,
Wisdom to speak thoughtfully,
Courage to share honestly.
Amen.*

[25 min] Rounds:

- Opening... *we want to hear from everyone's voice, story, and ideas. Don't tell us what you think we want to hear... please be **HONEST!** There's no right or wrong answer. Your voice matters.*
- Rounds – we will provide a series of questions, activities, statements to use to stimulate sharing and discussion. Invite (and encourage) each participant to share a response to each round. Try to keep time (5 x five-minute rounds).

[3 min] Closing:

- Thank everyone for their contributions and honesty
- Explain next steps...

we will send our responses to Bishops Youth Council, who will gather all the responses from all the listening groups taking place across Leicester Diocese. They will make-sense of these responses and send them to our Bishops. The Youth Council will create a short report, including the bishop's responses. We will get a copy of this report to share with our group / school / church.

- Reflection... Ask the group; what did you like (*and not like*) about the listening group? Would you like to participate again? What would you change?

Round Resources

Below you will find a brief description of each round, including a 'how to', required resources, content, and suggestions on recording participant responses.

Round 01: Tier List

Description: Order responses in tiers from most to least

You will need: Print out of responses, the question, phone, or camera

How to: Print, cut up and lay out responses on the floor or a table. Ask the group to collectively order the responses. When the group have finished, ask each participant to identify their most and least... is it the same as the group consensus or different? Why?

Recording: Take a photo of the completed tier list. Note down individual answers and differences, especially common differences.

Question: Who or what do I listen to most...

Round 02: Statements

Description: Agree or disagree continuum

You will need: Print out of continuum words, statements, phone, or camera.

How to: Create an imaginary continuum in your meeting room. One side of the room 'strongly agree', the other 'strongly disagree'. Write, or print out the words, *strongly agree*, *agree*, *don't know*, *disagree*, *strongly disagree*, and lay them on the floor. Read a statement. Invite participants to stand on the continuum. Ask participants to explain why they stood where they did.

Recording: Take a photo of participants feet standing on the continuum. Note down answers to 'why', especially common answers. Repeat for each statement.

Statements:

Listening is important...

I feel listened to at school / church...

Listening is boring...

Round 03: Big Question

Description: Answer the question

You will need: Paper, pens / pencils, the question, phone, or camera.

How to: Ask the group a question. Invite each participant to write down their response (*remind the group there is no right or wrong, simply their opinion!*) After participants have written their answer, invite each participant to share aloud in turn.

Recording: Collect the responses. Photograph them after the session.

The Question: When do you feel listened to the most? And why?

Round 04: Finish the sentence...

Description: Finish the sentence

You will need: Paper, pens / pencils, the sentence starter, phone, or camera.

How to: Read the sentence starter aloud a couple of times. Invite each participant to complete the sentence (*remind the group there is no right or wrong, simply their opinion!*) After participants have written their answer, invite each participant to share aloud in turn.

Recording: Collect the completed sentences. Photograph them after the session.

The sentence starter:

[school context] I listen at school because...

[church context] I listen at church because...

Round 05: Agenda Setting

Description: Gathering ideas for the next listening group

How to: Ask the group what themes, ideas, issues they would like to include in the next listening group. Invite each participant to share their ideas.

Recording: Note down ideas for the next agenda.

Reporting

Take a photo of your notes (or type them up) and email them along with all the photos from your listening group to Tracey or Matt (*emails below*). Please don't include any participant faces in your photos (just responses and feet!).

Facilitators Feedback

Please *copy and paste* the questions below into an email and briefly answer each question. Feel free to write as much or as little as you would like... all (*brutally honest*) feedback is helpful as we shape this experiment together.

Email to:

Tracey > tracey.manns@leicesterdbbe.org

Matt > matt.long@leicestercofe.org

Questions:

1. Where did you meet? (*Name of church / school / meeting place*)
2. How many children / young people / participants in your group?
3. Age range of group?
4. Rough makeup of group? (*Gender, ethnicity*)
5. Reflections on the listening group?
(*What worked well? What didn't? What would you change / do different next time?*)
6. Reflections on the facilitators resource?
(*What worked well? What didn't? What would you change / do different next time?*)
7. Any other comments / reflections / ideas?