


FRIENDS SOUTHERN SUMMER EVENTS
JUNIOR GATHERING INFORMATION PACK
2024

Friends Southern Summer Events



A packed Quaker week of friendship and fun for young people

Junior Gathering juniorgathering@fsse.org.uk 11-14 years	20-26 August 2024 Leighton Park School, Reading
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What is FSSE Junior Gathering?

Junior Gathering is a brilliant week in which young people have a chance to be together and make new friends in a Quaker environment. We have a different theme each year, based on suggestions from the young people at the previous event. This year's event will take place at Leighton Park School in Reading.

During the week, we have speaker sessions to explore ideas through workshops, drama, worship, films and games. For some non-themed fun, we run a variety of activities including crafts, cooking, music, discussions, and sports. In the afternoons and evenings, we enjoy quizzes, wide games, entertainments, and a themed disco. Spending a week with friends who share Quaker values can be life-changing, as well as really good fun!

We welcome both regular attenders and young people who do not usually come to Quaker Meeting. Each day starts with meeting for worship, and ends with epilogue, allowing us a chance to reflect on the day. We make an effort to explain all of this at the start of the week, as we know this may be some people's first experience of a bit of Quakerly silence.

Everyone will be in a base group made up of about eight young people as well as two adult volunteers. The base group is your Junior Gathering family, and everyone looks after each other. All participants will be allocated a bedroom, some shared and some single; when they are shared it will be with those of a similar age. Everyone also has a "secret friend" who secretly does kind things and gives you tiny presents – it might be worth bringing a couple of small gifts for your secret friend with you.

We follow Britain Yearly Meeting guidelines concerning the safety and wellbeing of those taking part. Our Child Protection Policy is on the [FSSE website](https://www.fsse.org.uk). All adult volunteers are required to have current enhanced checks from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

If you have any questions, please get in touch: juniorgathering@fsse.org.uk

FSSE: Junior Gathering Information 2024

Event Coordinators

Bryony Rowntree and Matt Winkless

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Planning Coordinators

Lou Whalley, Juno Lee & Imi Hills

For contact, ask Event Coordinators

Bookings Secretary

Ollie Waterhouse

juniorgathering@fsse.org.uk

Dates

Tuesday 20th August (afternoon) to Tuesday 26th August (late morning). Staff arrive on the evening of Monday 19th August.

Venue

Leighton Park School, Shinfield Road, Reading, RG2 7ED

Participant places

Approx. 50

Ages

11 to 14 years old

(must be 11/under 15 by 1st September 2023)

Theme

'Gender Equality'

Meals

The week will largely be catered for vegetarians, although there will be some meat options available. Other dietary needs are also catered for (please indicate any dietary requirements on your application form).

Applications

You can [apply online](#) or email the bookings secretary, Ollie Waterhouse, if you have any further questions: juniorgathering@fsse.org.uk. If possible, please apply before 31st March 2024. At the end of June 'joining instructions', with full information of what to bring and the Junior Gathering Boundaries will be sent to everyone. The young people will also be invited to send in requests for room-sharing.

Fee payments

In advance of Junior Gathering and Senior Conference, FSSE is required to inform the venue for our events of the total numbers attending and is charged accordingly.

Given that the total number that can be accommodated is also limited, the following requirements apply for payment of participant fees:

- To reserve a place, a non-refundable deposit of £50 must be paid upon receipt of your booking acknowledgment from our Bookings Secretaries.
- The balance of the full fee of £440 must be received by Monday 29th July 2024.

Bursaries

FSSE's aim is to ensure that no-one who wishes to come to Junior Gathering or Senior Conference is prevented from doing so for financial reasons. We receive grants and gifts that enable us to support participation by young people who could not otherwise afford the full fees, but the total sum available is limited.

FSSE therefore expects applicants, in the first instance, to seek financial support from their Local/Area Quaker Meeting; some Meetings support their young people as a matter of course. Ask the Bookings Secretaries about bursary assistance.

Cancellations

In the case of a participant withdrawing in advance from Junior Gathering or Senior Conference or being unable to take up their place, the following applies:

- The deposit is non-refundable.
- If you have paid the full fee prior to cancellation, you will receive a refund of the balance if you cancel on or before Monday 29th July 2024.
- If you cancel after Monday 29th July 2024, the balance cannot be refunded other than in exceptional circumstances.

Travel

Car: The main entrance to the school is on Shinfield Road, postcode: RG2 7ED. Please do not arrive before 4pm on Tuesday 20th August because we will not be ready for you! Pick up is at 10am on Monday 26th August. (Please note this year, the event is a day shorter than usual, due to venue availability).

Coach: We normally arrange a coach to and from Friends' House, Euston, departing around 2pm on 20th August, and returning about midday on 26th August. Please indicate when booking if you would like to use this option.

Costs

Junior Gathering fee: £440

Optional: Coach from Friends House to Leighton Park School and return: £tbc (for reference it was £20 in 2023)

Pocket money for tuck shop: About £20 is recommended

Meals

All dietary requirements can be catered for and there is always a choice of food, so no-one has to eat anything they don't like. Please make sure to

include any dietary needs on the application form (e.g. vegetarian, vegan, food allergies...)

Insurance

Any items of value brought to Junior Gathering must be fully insured against loss and damage. Junior Gathering cannot be responsible for personal property.

To give you an idea of what a week at Junior Gathering looks like, here is the timetable from the 2023 event:

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Lie in!	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
	Dorm Tidying	Dorm Tidying	Dorm Tidying	Breakfast	Dorm Tidying	Dorm Tidying	Dorm Tidying
	Meeting for Worship	Meeting for Worship	Meeting for Worship	Oxford Trip	Meeting for Worship	Meeting for Worship	Meeting for Worship
	Activities	Activities	Activities		Activities	Activities	Departure
	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks		Drinks	Drinks	
	Speakers from Ecumenical accompanying programme	Language & Quaker Experience	Quaker Work in the Hungarian Revolution		Quaker Myths & Legends	Activities	
	Base Group	Base Group	Base Group		Base Group	Base Group	
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch	
	Phil's Construction Activity	Escape Room	Harris Gardens		Fete	Young People's Business Meeting	
	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time		Free Time	Free Time	Free Time
Welcome & Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal		Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal
Intro to theme	Base Group Challenge	Quiz	Barn Dance	Life Lines	Disco	Ents	
Drinks	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks	

Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue
Bedtime 21.40	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime	
Lights Out 22.30	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	Bedtime/ Late room

What to pack:

- Change of clothes
- Nightwear
- Underwear
- Washing things
- Indoor and outdoor shoes
- Waterproof coat
- Torch
- Sports stuff: clothes and shoes, swimwear and extra towel, table tennis bats and balls
- Something small to give your secret friend – don't worry if you forget this, there'll be plenty of craft supplies to make something at the event!
- Instruments and music/song books
- Reading material, or sketching kit, playing cards/board games
- Materials for activities you might do e.g. T-shirt for tie-dye or glass jar for painting – more details will be provided in the joining instructions that we'll send nearer the time
- Costume for the disco
- **Mobile phones** may be brought with you, but they will only be available during free time

IMPORTANT NOTE

Smoking and alcohol are **not allowed** at Junior Gathering. If any young person is found in possession of cigarettes, tobacco in any form, alcoholic drinks or recreational drugs, this could result in the young person being sent home immediately.