FSSE: FRIENDS SOUTHERN SUMMER EVENTS

**JUNIOR GATHERING INFORMATION PACK 2025**



# 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://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](https://d.docs.live.net/fe6daf57c1d7ff6d/Documents/Quakers/FSSE/Junior%20Gathering%202021-matt-R4/juniorgathering%40fsse.org.uk)

# FSSE: Junior Gathering Information 2025

**Event Coordinators**

Lou Hallam and Matt Winkless

 lou.262@hotmail.co.uk | matt.winkless@gmail.com

**Planning Coordinators**

Imi Hills and Phil Wood

 *For contact, ask Event Coordinators*

**Booking Secretary**

Jonathan Hodgson

 juniorgathering@fsse.org.uk

**Dates**

Saturday 23rd August (afternoon) to Saturday 30th August (late morning)

**Venue**

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

**Participant Places**

Approx. 45

**Ages**

11 to 15 years old

 *(must be aged 11 or under 15 by 1st September 2025)*

**Theme**

Global issues regarding conflict and climate change

**Meals**

 **Please indicate any dietary requirements on the application form**

## Applications

You can [apply online](http://www.fsse.org.uk/juniorgathering/) or email the bookings secretary, Jonathan Hodgson, if you have any further questions: [juniorgathering@fsse.org.uk](http://../../../../../../C%3A/Users/Matt/AppData/Local/Temp/juniorgathering%40fsse.org.uk). Please note that space are limited. 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.

## Payment & Bursaries

Full payment of £590 is due by the 30th of June 2025. No-one will be prevented from attending Junior Gathering due to difficulties with payment. Most Local and Area Meetings will help with the expense, but if you need a grant in addition, please let the bookings secretary know. You can send a cheque or make a bank transfer; please email the bookings secretary for details. If the event cannot go ahead, payments will be refunded in full.

## Travel

Car: The main entrance to the school is on Shinfield Road, postcode: RG2 7ED. Please do not arrive before 4pm on Saturday 23rd August because we will not be ready for you! Pick up is at 10am on Saturday 30th August.

Coach: We normally arrange a coach to and from Friends’ House, Euston, departing around 2pm on 23rd August, and returning about midday on 30th August. Please indicate when booking if you would like to use this option.

## Costs

Junior Gathering fee: £590

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

Pocket money for tuck shop and Oxford Trip (about £20 recommended)

## 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 a previous 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 |  |
| Ecumenical accompanying | Fairtrade & Inequality | Direct Activism |  QPSW Economic Inequality | Climate Justice |
| Base Group | Base Group | Base Group | Base Group | Base Group |
| Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch |
| Giant Cluedo | Mega Marble Runs | 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 | Quiz | Base Group Challenge | Barn Dance | Life Lines | Carnival Disco | Ents |
| Drinks | Drinks | Drinks | Drinks | Drinks | Drinks | Drinks |
| Epilogue | Epilogue | Epilogue | Epilogue | Epilogue | Epilogue | Epilogue |
| Bedtime21.40 | Bedtime | Bedtime | Bedtime | Bedtime | Bedtime |
| Lights Out22.30 | Lights Out | Lights Out | Lights Out | Lights Out | Lights Out | Bedtime/ Late room |

## Packing Ideas

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