

FSSE: FRIENDS SOUTHERN SUMMER EVENTS
JUNIOR GATHERING INFORMATION PACK 2026

Friends Southern Summer Events



A packed Quaker week of friendship and fun for young people

Junior Gathering juniorgathering@fsse.org.uk 11-14 years	22-29 August 2026 The Pioneer Centre, Kidderminster, DY14 8JG
---	--

 [groups/fsseuk](https://www.facebook.com/groups/fsseuk) www.fsse.org.uk  [@fsse_uk](https://twitter.com/fsse_uk)

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 The Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, DY14 8JG.

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](#). 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 with Bookings Secretary: Jonathan Hodgson via: juniorgathering@fsse.org.uk

FSSE: Junior Gathering Information 2026

Event Coordinators

Lou Hallam and Philip Bryan-Wood

lou.262@hotmail.co.uk |

Planning Coordinators

Imi Hills and Jonathan Hodgson and Amy Bryan-Wood

For contact, ask Event Coordinators

Booking Secretary

Jonathan Hodgson

juniorgathering@fsse.org.uk

Dates

Saturday 22nd August (afternoon) to Saturday 29th August (late morning)

Venue

The Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, DY14 8JG.

Participant Places

Approx. 45

Ages

11 to 14 years old

(must be aged 11 or under 15 by 1st September 2026)

Theme

“Young People’s Involvement In Society”

Meals

Please indicate any dietary requirements on the application form

Applications

You can [apply online](#) or email the bookings secretary, Jonathan Hodgson, if you have any further questions: juniorgathering@fsse.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 £615 is due by Friday the 19th of June 2026. 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 the B4201 Road.

Please do not arrive before 4pm on Saturday 22nd August because we will not be ready for you! Pick up is at 10am on Saturday 29th August.

Coach: We will be offering a coach from Worcester Shrub Hill Station to the Pioneer Centre, as well as accompanied travel by train from London Paddington to Worcester Shrub Hill. The coach will have an additional cost of £20. Please indicate when booking if you would like to use this option.

Costs What does each day look like?

Junior Gathering fee: £615

Optional: Coach from Worcester Shrub Hill: £20

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.

What does each day look like?

Here's a guide to what happens in a typical day at Junior Gathering:

- Wake up and have breakfast
- Meeting for Worship (quiet worship time) is held every morning after breakfast
- Activities take place after Meeting for Worship. Participants sign up to their activity session the evening before. This year activities may include music-making, arts and crafts, football, drama, photography, newspaper puzzles, stamping and embossing, creative writing, board games, nail painting, debating, construction activities, rounders, domino-toppling, storytelling and adventures in nature!
- Break for drinks
- The main theme session comes after activities and drinks. This year the theme is 'Young People's Involvement in Society'. We will gather as a whole group to explore the theme chosen by last year's participants, often joined by external speakers relevant to the theme.
- Base Groups follow on from the main theme session. In smaller groups we continue to explore the theme, sometimes with external speakers visiting the group to answer questions. It's also a place to get to know each other and have fun!
- Lunch
- Afternoon fun! This year the excitement includes a group challenge, a collaborative construction activity, and the ever-popular Summer Fete!
- Free time takes place before the evening meal
- Dinner
- Evening fun! Among the activities we have planned this year are a quiz, a Base Group Challenge, Lifelines, a disco with the theme 'Under and over the sea', and entertainments on the last night, where there's a chance to share your talents!
- Break for drinks
- Epilogue (quiet worship time) completes every day and may be held outside under the stars, weather permitting...

Day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon:

On Wednesday we will travel to Stratford-upon-Avon by coach, where we will meet up with our sister event, Senior Conference. We will be based at the Holy Trinity Parish Centre and will share worship together before the young people head out in small groups to spend the day in the town.

Packing Ideas:

- Change of clothes
- Nightwear
- Underwear
- Washing things
- Indoor and outdoor shoes
- Waterproof coat
- Torch
- Sports stuff: clothes and shoes, 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.

We hope to see you this year!