

## **Circuit Children and youth Strategy: Spring 2026**

### **Overview Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit**

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' Matthew 19:14

### **Our Circuit Vision**

To enable us all to worship God and, in the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and together, play our part in the building of Christ's kingdom.

### **Our Circuit Mission for Children and Youth Work is to:**

- Support the local Churches as they share the Good News of Jesus Christ to families, children and young people through the power of the Holy Spirit, recognising the diversity of our churches and their communities.
  - Encourage the spiritual growth of families, children and youth work through mission and service.
  - Connect our church communities within the circuit.
  - Support churches to build connections within local communities.
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### **Our Strategic Priorities**

To achieve our mission, we commit to supporting:

- 1. Growth:** To help enable churches to develop ways to reach out to families, children and young people within their communities, in order to introduce them to the gospel message. To help enable an audit of what is happening in the local area as well as in the local church in order to establish the need of the area and to consider ways forward to fill that need with clear aims in place.
- 2. Discipleship:** To encourage churches to help families, children and young people develop a relationship with Jesus through access to ongoing learning, fellowship, worship and prayer.
- 3. Service:** To help churches recognise the needs of families, children and young people in their local communities in order to be able to respond to those needs.
- 4. Inclusivity:** Offering a radical welcome where no one is or excluded.
- 5. Innovation:** To help churches actively explore ways of working with families, children and young people and help them engage with new styles of intergenerational worship and mission appropriate to local settings.
- 6. Collaboration:** Recognizing the shared responsibilities between Children, youth and intergenerational leaders, Ministers, Local Pastors, Lay Staff, Circuit Officers, Stewards, Local Preachers, and Worship Leaders.
- 7. Resource Sharing:** Encourage the attendance to the regular gathering of children and youth leaders (employed and volunteers); for peer to peer support, sharing of ideas and

resources, signposting of training opportunities and events locally, district wide and connexional.

**8. Safety:** The promotion of a good safeguarding culture. To share any updates on policy and procedures regarding safeguarding to church children and youth leaders.

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## **Circuit Responsibilities and Actions:**

### **1. People: Strengthening the Body of Christ means our Circuit will focus on:**

- **Intergenerational:** We will help enable churches to prioritise intergenerational ministry, with a specific focus on reaching young families.
- **Flexible Ministry:** Circuit Children and Youth worker will be deployed flexibly, allowing expertise to be directed toward the Circuit's key identified priorities.
- **Community Presence:** We encourage churches to deepen links with uniformed organisations using premises, children's groups using the premises, local schools and community hubs to increase the visibility of our work.

### **2. Churches: In supporting local witness the Circuit will offer:**

- **Leadership:** While each church is responsible for its own governance, the Circuit Youth and Children's worker will help provide a strategic overview and expert advice with regards to families, children and youth work.
- **Specialist Support:** The Circuit Youth Worker will host regular meetings for children and youth workers to offer support, share good practice, share resources and enable peer to peer support.
- **Worship & Learning:** Encourage participation in the regular children and youth worker gathering where latest good practice will be shared, training offered and up to date resources shared.

Work with Local Preachers and Worship Leaders to help churches diversify their intergenerational worship styles and deepen discipleship.

## **Conclusion**

The Circuit Youth and Children's worker will work alongside church members to help enable ways to develop work with Families, Children and Young People to meet the needs of the community.

This requires us all to be courageous in our priorities, flexible with our resources, and rooted in our shared call to Ministry and Mission.

This strategy is part of the main Spring 2026 Circuit Strategy: and related specific actions for any given period of time are subject to at least annual review.

**NEXT REVIEW:** Spring 2027 or sooner if required.