



Youth Ministry Youth Volunteer Policy

RBC seeks to encourage all its members to use their God given gifts to bless the whole community. We feel that this should include the young people attending RBC; we hope to help them explore, discern and find opportunities to use the gifts that they feel God has given them.

Serving at the same time as youth provision

We need to ensure that our young people are still receiving appropriate teaching and are engaged with our youth groups. The following parameters outline the best practice for RBC's young people to get involved in ministries across the church on Sundays:

- Youth in **Years 10 and 11** may serve in a ministry **once a month**. They must try to attend Refine on the other Sundays when they are not serving.
- Youth in **Years 12 and 13** may serve in a ministry **twice a month**. They must try to attend Refine or the main service on the other Sundays when they are not serving.
- Youth in **Year 9** may engage in a period of exploring and discerning their gifts with their youth leaders. They may start serving in a ministry for **one term, twice a month** for that term.* They will be encouraged to go away and prayerfully consider whether they want to continue serving in this area of ministry.

*This includes those wanting to do volunteering for **Duke of Edinburgh**. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme requires **3 months** of service for 1 hour a week. With the Year 9's serving for one term, twice a month for 2 hours each time, this will cover the number of hours required. If they wish to volunteer for an hour on the weeks they are not serving, they may do so at another time during the week, so that they don't miss attending Phase. This will have to be agreed with a youth leader first.

Ideally, serving should not take place at the same time as the midweek youth groups. If it does, similar guidelines as to Sunday serving should apply.

Serving at other times

When the timing doesn't clash with youth provision, then the frequency and duration of serving can be agreed on a case-by-case basis. All young people that are serving are expected to be engaged in our youth provision, or in the main congregation if they are in sixth form.

Safeguarding

All voluntarily serving needs to be carried out in line with the RBC safeguarding policy and procedures. Special attention should be given to ensure that youth are not left alone or with a single adult, and that supervision is carried out by appropriate individuals.

All of the above will need to be discussed and agreed with the parent of the youth involved, the youth team and the ministry leaders.