

Information for Parents

We know that allowing your child to go away for the weekend can feel like a big deal. At GYM we are passionate and experienced in residential children's work, and it's really important to us that your child is safe, happy and has an amazing time with us. Below is some information about what we'll be exploring over the weekend which we hope will allow you as a parent to relax and enjoy a peaceful few days.

Although we are a Christian organisation and will be learning lots about God over the weekend, you do not have to be a Christian to come. Anyone in years 4–6 is welcome.

Teaching

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts", says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8–9

We are really excited about this year's theme of 'Look Beyond'. The vision for our weekend is to encourage and equip children to *look beyond* the situation, challenge, friendship, emotions they currently find themselves surrounded by and to be able to see God's perspective and God's heart for them.

There will be four main teaching sessions. Here is a brief summary of our plans so far:

1. Who is God? We will introduce the idea that our way of looking at things is not the only way and start to unpack why it's worth looking at what God's perspective is and how it might be different from our own
2. Look Beyond the way I see myself — How do I see myself? What happens when I start to look for God's perspective? What does He say about me? We will look at the Easter story and how it really is all about love.
3. Look beyond the way I see other people — when I see things God's way, how does that change how I act? We will look at how inclusive God is and think about how we can love our neighbour.
4. Look beyond the way I see my future — Colossians 3:1. We will look at how reading our Bible and praying help us to keep ourselves in tune with God. We will also talk about how God says He is always with us through His Holy Spirit and give children the opportunity to pray for each other and receive prayer ministry if they would like to.

In each of these sessions there will be some silly games and challenges, sung worship, teaching input and then a chance to go off in groups and explore the topic in more depth through creative storytelling, building or craft based activities and an interactive prayer space. Children will be sorted into teams for the weekend, and each team will have an adult assigned to provide spiritual and pastoral support, someone to talk to and have fun with and someone who will definitely get stuck in with our messy games!

Activities

As well as the main sessions, we have put aside lots of time for games and activities both inside the amazing Sizewell Hall and outside in the lovely grounds (and on the beach!) We work really hard to make sure there is something that appeals to everyone, and encourage children to give everything a go, but we will never force anybody to take part in something they are not comfortable with.

Safety

Our team is made up of experienced Children's Workers, many of whom are GYM staff or primary school teachers. They are all DBS checked, have up to date safeguarding training and follow our strict Child Protection Policy. Children will be signed in upon arrival and signed out again when they leave at the end of the weekend. There will always be at least two qualified First Aiders on site, and every activity that we do is risk assessed.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Lucy (lucy@c-y-m.org.uk) with any questions or for any more information.

If you would like to see Christian Youth Ministries' Child Protection Policy,

please contact our Director, Simon Scott: sinfo@c-y-m.org.uk

For more information about this weekend or other GYM events please refer to our website

www.c-y-m.org.uk or contact the GYM office on 01473 216712 / admin@c-y-m.org.uk