

We will be using Spond to communicate across the Young Leaders' Community. An app with good safety features that allows under 13s to join (with parent/carer involvement), ensures that all messages are posted in safe groups with adult leaders present, and ensures no direct or private messages can be sent to or received by under 18s. These features make Spond a good option for the YLC, and meet all our safeguarding guidelines. You can download Spond from your app store, or create an account here: www.spond.com. It can be used on a smartphone, or computer browser so that parents can manage how it is used in the home.

Young Leaders will be encouraged to give their ideas in group chats, answer polls to see what they think about issues and volunteer for opportunities across the diocese to lead, speak, influence, shape and contribute to a variety of mission and ministry events and activities. Young Leaders will also be able to state their availability for YLC meetings, join chat groups around different themes, share faith stories and discipleship resources and feel a sense of belonging to a wider 'church-family' of peers.

To ensure everyone is able to use Spond safely, members will be asked to agree to this code of conduct before joining.

Be Respectful

- Be respectful of one another's ideas and feelings. Treat people with dignity and courtesy at all times.
- Be kind when joining in discussions or making comments on the app.
- Bullying and/or racism will not be tolerated and will result in exclusion from the group.
- Be patient with others and refrain from any behaviour or comments which are profane, insulting, harassing, sexist, racist, abusive, disrespectful or otherwise offensive. Swearing or inappropriate language will not be tolerated and will result in exclusion from the group.
- Do not over-use the app by commenting too much – allow room for others to respond and encourage quieter users to engage.
- We are from many different churches with different traditions and beliefs. We encourage an attitude of listening and learning from each other, and do not impose our traditions or beliefs onto others, no matter how strongly we hold those traditions or beliefs.

Stay Safe

- Never reveal any personal information on the app e.g. phone number, email address or postal address.
- Always report any disrespectful or offensive behaviour in posts by clicking on the 3 dots in the top right corner of the post, and selecting 'Report post' and then 'Report to a group administrator'.
- Please alert an Admin if you have any concerns about using this app or its safety for all users.
- Do not use the app in school time. It is suggested that the app is only used between 4-9pm weekdays, and 8am-10pm weekends or holidays. Parents are encouraged to set their own limits on their children for using the app. Leaders should also work within these timings, and not to partake in conversations outside these times.

Young people are encouraged to interact with as many conversations as they belong to. When adult leaders create a new chat group, they must ensure that 'Visible for members and guardians' is selected, and not 'Visible only for members'. Guardians do not see the later, even if their child comments in the conversation. Any posts created as 'Visible only for members' will be removed by an admin.

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