

When you bring your child to meeting at Brentford & Isleworth Quaker Meeting



Children and young people are an important part of our meeting. As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Brentford & Isleworth, we are committed to providing an environment in our meetings and gatherings for children and young people where they are safe and where they can be nurtured physically, spiritually, mentally and emotionally.

Welcome!

Children are always welcome at meetings for worship and as a Meeting we seek to ensure a warm welcome for all young people. The arrangements for children at Meeting vary depending on their age and needs.

What follows is a description of our current arrangements:

The meeting for worship begins at 10:30. It is helpful if you can as far as possible arrive a little before that, so that your child can be settled in the children's class so that you can join the meeting. Please hand your child over to one of the two helpers. Do not leave your child unattended.

You may of course remain with your child for the first few times until she/he becomes familiar with the routine and happy to remain with our rota of helpers. This is advisable for very young children.

At about 11.20, your child will be brought into the meeting room to join the meeting for worship. From that time, she/he will become your responsibility for the remaining time you are at the Meeting House.

Your child can sit anywhere, and some very small children do move around the room. Do not be concerned if he/she is a little restless:

At meeting for worship relax and let your baby be with you; my small daughter called it 'the best cuddle of the week' when I couldn't rush off and do something busy. It's not easy for the parents to believe that their child's gurglings actually help the meeting rather than interrupt it. Nonetheless, that is true, and you shouldn't give way to the temptation to take a happily babbling child out of the meeting (though howling is something different!).

Quaker Faith & Practice 2.50

Usually the younger children play or do some sort of craft activity during Children's Meeting. As their understanding grows we introduce them to some of the history of

Quakers and to Quaker values and ideals. Themes might include: 'Caring for our World', 'The Cadburys and Chocolate' and 'Peace'.

Sometimes they play games, or go outside into the garden.

Sometimes we hold an 'all-age' meeting for Worship. On these occasions Meeting for Worship takes a different form, with the children and the adults joining together for a combined meeting; often there is a theme. The younger children are encouraged to join in or they can draw or play quietly during this time.

How we aim to keep children safe

We ask parents/ guardians to be present in the Meeting House during meeting for worship, or to delegate another named adult to take responsibility for their child. If your child becomes very unsettled or distressed or in case of an emergency, the volunteer helper will call the parent/ guardian or delegated adult out of the meeting.

We ask all parents/guardians to let us know about any medical conditions, allergies or special needs affecting your child that we should be aware of and also of any food or drink they must not or do not usually have. You do this on our GDPR consent form for holding your personal details.

We have a vetting procedure for volunteers helping with the children including taking up a reference. Volunteers are also required to apply for DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) clearance. Volunteer helpers are expected to abide by Brentford & Isleworth Meeting's Safeguarding Policy and its code of Good Practice for volunteer helpers. If you would like copies of these, please ask the lead member of the Children's Group who currently is Carol Sargent telephone 020 8847 1692 mobile 07876 151792 email carol.sargent@gmail.com.

When Children's Meeting is held

Children's Meeting is currently held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. It is not held during August.

