

**PARTNERING**  
churches  
**SUPPORTING**  
leaders  
**ENGAGING**  
children & young people

# Why The Boys' Brigade?

For over 125 years, The Boys' Brigade has reached out to millions of children & young people. Today we are passionate about partnering with churches to build bridges into local communities and engage a generation of children & young people with a message of hope rooted in Jesus.

Through The Boys' Brigade children & young people (aged 5 to 18+) get involved in local churches by means of weekly groups, residential's, special events, community projects and training programmes. These activities are led by thousands of volunteers who are trained and supported to work as effective children's & youth workers in a Christian context. Whilst our work is in the UK and Ireland, we are part of a worldwide organisation set up and run to reach over one million children & young people all over the world.

**In 1995, 613,000 ten to nineteen year olds were attending church, but by 2005 this figure had dropped to 230,000. That's a drop of 62%. Recent research also shows that 59% of churches have no one attending between 15 and 19 years of age.**

We are aware that many churches find it difficult to engage with young people.

This is why we are desperate to . . .

**Partner** your Church in outreach

**Support** your leaders

**Engage** children & young people



## ■ Partner your Church in outreach

Over recent years churches have experienced increasing difficulties getting young people through their doors. Each week The Boys' Brigade works with thousands of children & young people, and for many of them The Boys' Brigade is their only connection with the Church.

Our experience tells us three things:

1. If you want 16 year olds in your church you need to start with 5 year olds.
2. If you provide age appropriate activities then children & young people will keep on coming.
3. If you get children and young people coming to church and church events, the rest of their family and friends could follow.

The Boys' Brigade has a track record . It has a recognisable name as a safe place that parents can trust. By partnering with your Church we can help you reach out to children & young people not only in your church but in your local community.

We want to be your partner in outreach. Therefore as an organisation we are flexible to the needs of your church. The Boys' Brigade belongs to the church, and we hope that what happens during the week will be seen as just as

important as what happens at the weekend!

We read in 1 Corinthians 3:7-9 . . .

“It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God’s workers. And you are God’s field. You are God’s building.”

We are stronger when we work together for the kingdom of God, and that’s why the idea of partnership is really important to us.



**“8 years ago a lad was playing football outside the Church. He came in and had a great time. About 3 years ago he gave his life to Jesus. Since then, his brother and his Mum have both come into the Church as well”**

*Phil (Leader)*



## ■ Supports your leaders

When we speak with groups about starting a new piece of children's or youth work they are always enthusiastic about the idea, but often concerned when it comes to the practicality of working as a volunteer.

We pride ourselves on leaders who respect and value children & young people, and love them as individuals. We promise to do everything we can to help support and train volunteers to be effective Christian children's & youth workers. You provide the leaders and we'll train them, whether it's in managing volunteers, relational youth work, sharing your faith or leading residential's.

Providing a safe environment in which children & young people can develop is a fundamental responsibility for every individual leader, group, and church. The Boys' Brigade has a comprehensive and well-respected child protection and safeguarding policy. All leaders working in The Boys' Brigade are required and assisted to complete a disclosure check. The Boys' Brigade also provides a comprehensive range of insurances including public liability, employer's liability and personal accident cover.

**Your leaders are not alone!** We have local and national support networks which means that you are never far from a friendly face, someone to pray, worship and share ideas with, and other groups to join in with activities & competitions.

We read in Romans 12:7-9 . . .

"If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them."

You might not realise quite where you fit into all of this. However every member of your church has a role to play in your group, whether it's through prayer, encouragement, or volunteering.

**"I never thought I could work with young people, but the training and support the BB has provided has given me the confidence I need"**

*Karen (Leader)*



## ■ Engage children & young people

juniors

We firmly believe that to share the gospel we need to be in contact with children & young people. Our programmes cater for the varied interests of all children & young people. They are all aimed at having fun, but have a special focus on developing individual potential, getting involved in your community, providing opportunities to be listened to and have a say, and recognising achievement.

Our four programmes contain important information about working with children & young people, as well as a wealth of ideas to keep your group fresh and most importantly enjoyable for children, young people and leaders. These contemporary programmes offer a firmly Christian-based means of working in a creative and relevant way using a balanced programme of adventure and activity. They are flexible enough to meet the needs of all churches.



**Anchors.** This is our work with children aged from 5-8. They love to have fun and make lots of noise. At this age we seek to build firm foundations, establish a group identity and nurture responsibility. They do lots of different activities which include crafts, music, games, sports, as well as learn about making friends, prayer, and Bible stories.

**Juniors.** This is our work with children aged from 8-11. This is a time of quiet change where we encourage independence. Their evenings are full of challenges, games and activities, usually ones that they have suggested themselves. We cater for just about every possible interest and at the same time support them to look beyond themselves. Children can look at the environment in which they live, healthy eating, fair trade, Bible superheroes and more.



**Discover.** This is for young people aged from 11-15. It's all about young people learning new skills, making their own decisions and then achieving their own personal goals. Activities range from improving football skills, pod-casting, learning about their carbon footprint, the Bible according to the Simpsons, sportsmanship, and more.



**Challenge Plus.** This is for young people aged from 15-18. It's all about young people planning and delivering their own programme. A wide range of topics focus on building life skills, encouraging recreation and leisure pursuits and being an active citizen. Young people can learn about fundraising, homelessness, independent living, preparing for work, and even more. All of which provide opportunities for young people to explore a personal Christian faith. Now you can really begin to reap what has been sown and nurtured from the age of 5.



Our work is relationship focussed, what we do is of less importance than the relationships we form. In a world that doesn't seem to be very good at building relationships, we believe that we have a crucial role to play helping young people realise their full worth as they mature from 5 year old children to 18 year old adults.

The lives of many children and young people in our communities are in turmoil. We know that 83% of young people believe that the community does not care about them, and yet 59% of churches have no one attending aged between 15 and 19. We also know that young people do best when they have a safe place to hang out with friends and trusted adult role models.

We read in 1 John 4:19 . . .  
"We love because he first loved us."

We want to work with children & young people who often have no other connection with the church, and demonstrate to them the reality of a living God through what we do, say, and teach. Our programmes equip groups and leaders to engage children and young people. In order to make a positive impact in their lives, and then form strong relationships through which our lives will speak even louder than words. Our hope is then that children & young people will come to know Jesus for themselves.

Additionally we see a real need to engage children & young people in the life of the Church: to be open to their ideas, value what they say, and allow them to express themselves in the way they want.

We encourage leaders to listen and act on what children & young people say and involve them in decision making right from the age of 5. As a result a key part of our leader recruitment strategy is to grow leaders from within groups.

Underpinning all of our work is a steadfast belief that what Jesus said 2000 years ago is relevant today. Our leaders have experienced the truth that Jesus offers life in all its fullness.

Consequently our passion is for children & young people . . .

**. . . to experience acceptance and opportunities to develop skills and positive values.**

**. . . to hear & see Jesus' hope for themselves.**

**. . . and to become a practical demonstration of Jesus' love to their peers.**



# Now what?

At a time when churches are haemorrhaging children and young people, we believe that The Boys' Brigade is ideally positioned to support your church to reverse this trend.

Here is a challenge from 1 Timothy 4:12 . . .

**“Be an example to everyone with your words, your actions,  
your love, your faith, and your life.”**

Never underestimate the role that you could play in one child or young person's life. Your interventions through your work with The Boys' Brigade will change their futures. If you want to work with 16 year olds, start with 5 year olds!

**We really would like to . . .**

**Partner** your Church in outreach

**Support** your leaders

**Engage** children & young people

**Now it's time for you to start talking, praying and acting.**

**the adventure  
begins here . . .**





“ The effectiveness of any youth work is dependent on the leaders engaging with the young people. To spend time with them, to pray for them, to enjoy their company, to laugh at what makes them laugh, and to listen to what they want to talk about. It’s relationships that engage young people . . . Only then can we show them that living for Jesus is a real and vital part of life. ”

*Donald (Minister)*

“ I would say to anyone considering becoming a leader; *go for it!* I’ve never regretted a minute. ”

*Joseph (Leader)*

**For more information please get in contact:**

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