Scripture Union

Key principles for engaging children and young people online

It's a real privilege to do this work. Doing it well and safely will help people to see Jesus in us.

Safety first

- A meeting in an online space is a real meeting and should not be seen as less

- Know your safeguarding policy and the impact of online engagement

- All session leaders should have been subject to a Safer Recruitment process

- Deal with all issues as you would with any concerns, as per your organisation's policies

- Your Data Protection policies may well apply to some of your engagement

Planning

- Understand what you're trying to do, AND what you're not doing

- Explore which software is best for your needs. This is a great site: bit.ly/2JCoAEk

- Make sure you know how to run the session as you want, and test it several times

- Get consent from parents or guardians, in line with your current policy for face to face contact

- Plan your sessions to include not only the content, but how the meeting should be run

Run the session

- Getting the context right is important: location (ie not bedrooms), time, dress, language

- Parents or guardians should get invitations and be present in the room for under 13s

- Agree rules of behaviour with everyone before the session starts

- Always have two leaders, with one managing the session to mute users if necessary or take other actions

- ALWAYS use your organisation's account details and never your personal one

Keep things going

- Start slowly, give yourself and others reflection time before the next session

- Agree the time of the next session with your group as you finish the current one

- Make a note of what happened at the meeting and who was there

- Pray for you, your team, the children and young people and the technology you're using!

- Keep reviewing how things can be improved and made safer

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