



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

February 2019

Topical Activity

Quaker Opportunities



This topical activity aims to show children how they are part of the world community of Quakers and the Quaker opportunities available to them as they grow up.

Discussion

As you begin, ask the children to think of a time when they were part of a group. Tell each other about the group. Ask how did it feel?

As Quakers we are part of an international Quaker community which circles the globe.



In the UK we usually attend a local meeting on Sunday. Our local meeting is part of a larger area meeting - rather like an extended family. There are 70 area meetings in the UK. Look with the children at a map of Britain to see where they are.

You can look up your area meeting on the main Quaker website : <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/book-of-meetings/area-meetings#heading-1>

Northern Ireland Quakers are part of Ireland Yearly Meeting <https://quakers-in-ireland.ie/quakermeetings/>

There are Quakers all over the world. The Friends World Committee for Consultation provides a map of where they all are. Download it here: <http://fwcc.world/fwcc-news/2017worldmap>

Being part of such a big community gives us lots of opportunities to meet other Quakers and go to events together. Some of these are especially for children, young people or families – Yearly Meeting (YM) is for all ages. Have any of the children been to this? If so, ask them if they would like to share something about it. Children from 0 - 11 can explore Quakerism, make friends, worship, have fun and play games. Encourage children to speak with their parents about going to YM. The details of the 2019 YM are available at <http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym/children-and-young-people-1>

Talk with the children about how at events like this they could make friends that will be very important to them and how it is a chance to share our spiritual journeys in a safe space. It's also a chance to have fun and take challenges together and find out about other people's experience of being a Quaker. Some people's experiences may be similar to their own, and others may be quite different. Quaker meetings and area meetings may help pay to go to these events if needed. Let families know who to ask about this.

Activity

Work together to think about the ingredients of a Quaker children's event. What would you want to include? Use these ingredients to plan an event that the children could put on.

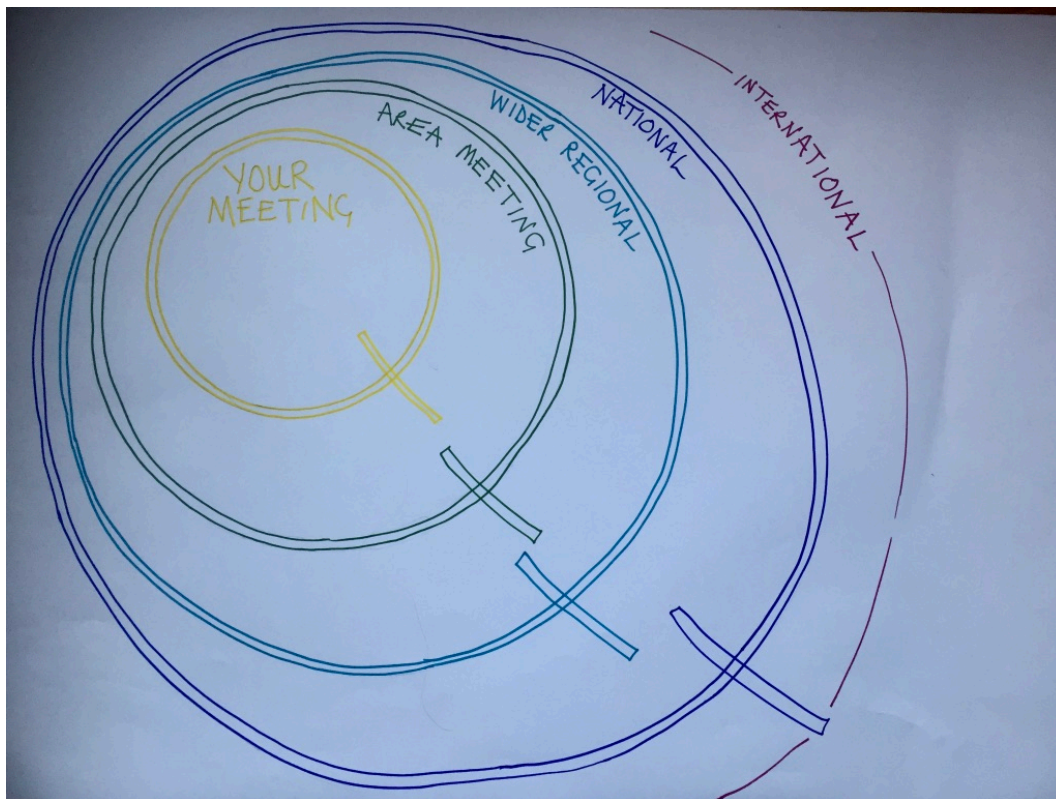
- Who is it for? Would you invite children from other meetings?
- Friendship?
- What would be fun?
- What kind of activities?
- What would keep it safe?
- How would it be Quaker?
- Anything else?



Use a large piece of paper to make a poster for the event and work together to make it happen.

Quaker opportunities

You might want to draw as below on a big sheet to show how the Local Meeting links with the wider opportunities.



The Quaker family spreads from Local Meeting, or the young people's group, out to Area Meeting, national and the international. Look with the children at the diagram (page 3) of Quaker opportunities in the UK and internationally.

On a large piece of paper, create a similar diagram together as a group (there is a blank one on page 4). Use the names of your meeting and area and any activities you know about locally.

You could share your Quaker Opportunities picture with others in your meeting.

Children could then use the coloured diagram (page 4) to fill how they themselves might get involved with opportunities now and in the future. Offer to help with this if anyone needs it.

The Young Quaker Calendar, which has local, national and international events, is available from cypadmin@quaker.org.uk and available to download at www.yqspace.org.uk/find-event

Worship

Finish with some worship. Place a tealight (battery or wax) on your meeting in your drawing and think of all the Quakers around the world and how you may get to know some of them in future.



Quaker Children and Young People's Opportunities

Local meeting

- Children's meeting for worship
- All age worship
- Special local events – party, trip, wedding etc.
- Giving service as appropriate – giving out biscuits, gardening, children's committee, helping welcome others as appropriate to age and individual

Area meeting

- Area meeting children & young people's activities alongside regular area meeting for adults
- Link groups for young people
- Young adults groups
- All age residentials
- All age meeting for learning
- Area meeting social events

Wider regional

- FSSE Southern Junior Gathering 11-14 yrs
- FSSE Southern Senior Conference 15-18 yrs
- Northern Young Friends Summer Shindig 11-16 yrs
- Yorkshire Friends Holiday School 13-18 yrs
- The Friends Summer School 11-17 yrs
- LINK Groups

National

- Britain Yearly Meeting 0-11 yrs and 11-15 yrs
- Junior Yearly Meeting 15-18 yrs
- Participation Day 14-18 yrs
- Facilitation and Leadership 15-21 yrs
- Young Friends General Meeting 18-35ish
- Woodbrooke events
- YQ Space

International

- Quaker Youth Pilgrimage (FWCC) 16-35 yrs
- Geneva Summer School 20-26 yrs
- European and Middle East Young Friends events
- QUNO summer school for young adults
- Wide range of Quakers worldwide to visit / share with through FWCC

Links to the above can be found on the Young Quaker Calendar 2019 <http://www.yqspace.org.uk/find-event>.
Contact cypadmin@quaker.org for your copy or for more information.

Quaker opportunities for me

Local meeting

Area meeting

Wider regional

National

International