

# **Addiscombe Youth Club (AYC) Annual Report**

## **2026**

### **Overview**

Addiscombe Youth Club (AYC) was established in January 2020 in response to an identified need within the parish community for a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for young people aged 11–15. The club provides opportunities for social interaction, personal development, and community engagement, while promoting positive relationships and emotional wellbeing.

The club remains open to all young people within the local community and continues to foster an inclusive atmosphere where members can build friendships, develop confidence, and participate in a range of structured and informal activities.

AYC seeks to promote the values of kindness, friendship, respect, communication, and community responsibility. As a parish-based initiative, the club reflects Christian values through its actions and engagement with young people, offering support, encouragement, and a sense of belonging.

### **Membership and Communication**

AYC currently maintains contact with 22 families through its mailing list. During the year, communication was enhanced through the introduction of a dedicated WhatsApp community group alongside regular email updates. These channels provide information regarding session dates, planned activities, parish events, charitable initiatives, and administrative matters.

Google Forms continue to be used successfully for registrations, trip permissions, surveys, and information gathering, enabling efficient communication with families and supporting effective administration.

Average attendance this year has been approximately 20 young people per session. While attendance remains positive, opportunities for additional sessions have been limited due to restrictions on hall availability.

### **Governance, Safeguarding and Volunteers**

The club is overseen by a volunteer committee comprising:

- Joanna Murphy – Chair
- Siobhan Goodwin – Secretary
- Carol Norton – Treasurer
- Paula Glave – Committee Member

The committee continues to benefit from the support of a dedicated team of parent volunteers who assist in delivering weekly sessions and activities.

Safeguarding remains a key priority. All volunteers have completed the safer recruitment process, obtained DBS certification, and undertaken the mandatory safeguarding training required by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. We remain grateful to the Diocese for its continued support and guidance in these matters.

Several volunteers hold First Aid qualifications, and additional training in Mental Health First Aid has further strengthened our ability to support young people and signpost families to appropriate services where necessary.

## **Activities and Programme Delivery**

Regular Friday evening sessions continue to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for young people to socialise and participate in a variety of activities, including sports, crafts, games, and informal discussion groups.

The club also provides practical support where possible, including access to sanitary products and affordable refreshments through the Sugar Rush tuck shop. Income generated through tuck sales is reinvested directly into the club for the benefit of members.

AYC remains committed to creating opportunities that support personal development, wellbeing, confidence building, and positive peer relationships.

## **Trips and Educational Opportunities**

A varied programme of trips and outings remains an important part of the AYC offer. These experiences provide opportunities that may otherwise be inaccessible to some families and help strengthen relationships among members while promoting confidence and independence.

The parish allocation continues to be used responsibly to subsidise activities and ensure that financial circumstances do not become a barrier to participation. Any surplus funds generated by the club are reinvested into equipment, resources, and future activities.

Comprehensive risk assessments are completed for all trips and events to ensure the safety and wellbeing of participants.

## **Community Engagement**

Throughout the year, AYC members have continued to participate in parish and community events, strengthening links between young people and the wider parish family.

Highlights included:

- Supporting the Parish October Fair.
- Participation in the Christmas Pyjama Appeal.
- A Christmas outing to Oxygen Activity Centre.
- A parent and child workshop delivered by Billy & Beyond.
- Active participation in the Mother's Day Mass.
- A recreational evening at Dragon's Den Pitch and Putt.

The club also values its ongoing partnership with the Social Club, whose support provides opportunities for young people to develop practical skills, confidence, and a sense of responsibility.

## **Acknowledgements**

The committee would like to record its sincere gratitude to all volunteers, parents, parishioners, and supporters whose contributions make the continued success of AYC possible.

Particular thanks are extended to the Parish, the Social Club, and to Fr Keith and Fr Cajetan for their encouragement, support, and commitment to the young people of our community.

## **Conclusion**

AYC continues to fulfil its objective of providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for young people within our parish community. The positive feedback received from both young people and parents demonstrates the value of the club and its contribution to the wellbeing, development, and social engagement of its members.

The committee remains committed to sustaining and developing the club in the coming year, ensuring that it continues to meet the needs of young people while strengthening their connection to the wider parish community.