

10 steps to a good group.

These are 10 steps to follow when thinking about youth ministry in your parish.
This is not an exhaustive list and is just a basic guide.

	This is where I am	Before I go any further	Done!
Step 1	I want to work with young people in my parish	Why? – what are my motives? Do other people share them? Talk to other people; parish priest, parish council, other potential youth leaders.	
Step 2	We want to work with young people in our parish	What is our vision? What is already on offer for young people?	
Step 3	We have an idea <i>Hint; when you ask young people, be prepared to hear answers you weren't expecting. This is part of the fun!</i>	What do the young people in our parish think? What are the needs, hopes and desires of the young people in our parish?	
Step 4	The young people have told us what they want and need from the parish	Can we do it; have we the skills necessary? Do we need to ask for others to be involved? Do we need training and formation for this work?	
Step 5	What help is available?	Are there people in neighbouring parishes/schools who can help and guide us? What can the Diocesan Youth Service offer? What can the local authority offer?	
Step 6	What, where, when? <i>Hint; you must now be involving young people at every turn.</i> <i>Hint; the perfect space and the available space might not be the same. This is the art of compromise!</i>	What are we going to do? – Plan the first few meetings/activities/start-up of the group. Where; what is the best space to meet and what is the available space to meet? When; set a target for starting or you may never begin.	
Step 7	What do we need planned and ready?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRB – all volunteers must have a current (no more than 3 years old) CRB check and be aware of the Church's safe guarding procedures. There should already be a named person in the parish for Child Protection. • All volunteers should have filled out an application form and have looked through their job description. • Parental consent forms ready for young people to complete – registration for membership of the group. • The venue and activities are risk assessed and policies for discipline, drugs and alcohol, complaints • Plan the initial programme, ensuring that young people have had their say. • Contact the Youth Service if there are any questions you have. 	
Step 8	How do we start?	Plan how you are going to start up the group; what is the target group, how do you contact them, what are they going to be invited to	
Step 9	Begin and enjoy	Just start. Meet and enjoy being together. Ask the young people to help lead and prepare; write a group contract, ask what they want to do	
Step 10	Evaluate	Evaluate after each meeting, periodically during the year or programme, amongst yourselves, with the young people and don't be afraid to change how you do things. If mistakes have been made, just make sure the same ones aren't made again. Ensure that the leaders have time to think, reflect, prepare, evaluate	