

## **Connect New Drop ins!**

Connect will now be referring to their Youth Clubs as Drop-ins. What does this mean?

At Connect we believe in supporting young people to build resilience and understand responsibility. As a youth work organisation, we believe in allowing a young person the opportunity to inform their parents/guardians of the drop-ins, and how their night has gone.

We also believe in giving young people the opportunity and the choice to engage with us or to choose not to. Attending our sessions is voluntary and shouldn't feel mandatory.

Drop-ins allow young people to attend like normal on dedicated nights at their age. They can arrive anytime between our sessions, whether it be 10 minutes after opening, half an hour or even one hour. Young people will also be allowed to leave any time during our session. This is up to the young person.

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian that if they would like their young person to remain within our service for our session, then that's a conversation they would have with their young person. Please make sure you indicate to staff members through Connects Facebook, email or in person that you would not like your young person to leave during the session.

Our youth workers can only tell the young person that they are recommended to stay during the full session, they cannot prevent a young person from leaving. The choice is theirs. However, if we have been notified, we can send the parent/guardian a message, phone call or a text to inform them their young person has left.

All young people that access our drop-ins starting 1st of May will be asked to fill out a consent form. Young people must have filled in before returning to another session. This is to ensure that the staff are aware of any allergies, emergency contact or additional support that is required. This is only to be done once and you must inform us of any changes (eg phone number address)

The link to the consent form can be accessed online - https://bypconnect.com/drop-in-sessions

Connect will operate our drop-ins on a 3-warning rule. After 3 warnings, a young person may be asked to take 5 minutes outside to calm down, gain some space or some time before re-entering. There may be incidents where a young person has been asked to leave for the rest of the night.

We understand that parents/guardians have some concerns that they will not be notified if this happens. As we are not a school, we would normally not inform parents of incidents like these unless they were serious. However, staff are happy to call or text if their young person has been asked to leave.

Staff will not contact parents unless they have been involved in a serious accident, left the building (only if they have been informed first) or if they have been asked to leave due to serious misbehaving.

We at Connect believe that this approach will help the sessions become more relaxed and chilled for young people to access a space that they feel is their own and feel safe in.

If parents/guardians have any concerns or questions about the drop-ins or sessions, please ensure that you contact the organisation directly and not staff personally on their personal social media. We always value feedback and would love to hear from you. If there are any concerns or issues, Connect will be more than happy to answer them. info@bypconnect.com



## Frequently Asked Questions.

- Can I arrive at any time between the sessions run time? Yes
- Do I need to inform staff if leave? Yes, as you will be asked to sign out.
- Will there be food? Connect will try to provide some snacks during each drop-in session!
  - Can my child/ward leave at any time? Yes
  - Will I be notified if my child/ward leaves? Only if you have asked Connect to do so.
  - Does this apply to P7s? P7s will be encouraged to stay for the whole session and recommend they do due to their age. (Unless popping to the shop)
  - Can I bring along a visiting friend or cousin? If they are in the same age bracket of the sessions, they are very welcome.
- My Child/Ward is attending for the first time what happens? They will be asked to get home
  to send a message to our Facebook to receive a link to consent form, they will also be
  asked for a contact number for home for a staff member to get in touch with to get
  important details.
  - What happens for trips? Consent forms will be sent specifically for non-local trips.
    - Is there a cost? No, there are no costs for our sessions currently.
- Do I have to drop my child/ward off at the sessions? If a child/ward is being dropped off or
  picked up, it is important that they do so during the opening and closing times. Staff will
  close doors at the end of the sessions and cannot stay back if parents/guardians are late,
  unless in extreme circumstances or weather conditions. Parents/guardians should also
  remain outside unless they wish to speak to a member of staff.
- What happens if my child gets in trouble at drop ins? They will be spoken to by a member of staff, Connect will not contact home, unless they have been involved in a serious incident or accident.
  - How do I stay updated on what is happening? Connect has a website, Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date. You are also able to ask us through email or pick up the phone.

If parents/guardians have any questions from the information above, please do not hesitate to contact us through email: info@bypconnect.com