

# BISHOPS CHILDREN & YOUTH COUNCIL



## Listening & Responding

We are reimagining how we hear and respond to the voice of children and young people in the Diocese of Leicester.

In partnership with schools and church-based groups, across a range of contexts, we are running some experimental listening groups.

Listening groups are made up of children and/or young people who are asked to share their thoughts, ideas, and stories, in response to a series of conversation prompts and interactive activities.

***'It was great, the young people engaged really well and it highlighted topics it would be good to explore with them'  
- facilitator***



**Bishops Children & Youth Council**

# THE NUMBERS

<b>03</b>	Primary Schools
<b>04</b>	Church Youth Groups
<b>43</b>	Young Voices
<b>23</b>	Girls
<b>20</b>	Boys
<b>6-17</b>	Age Range
<b>18%</b>	UKME / GMH



# ROUND 01

# TIER LIST



## Who or what do you listen to most?

Parents, teachers, friends & siblings tended to be the most listened to.

The news, social media, TV & wider family tended to be least listened to.

Church leaders, club leaders & grandparents tended to be in the middle.

*'...it was people they knew well and trusted that they listened to most'*  
- **Facilitator**



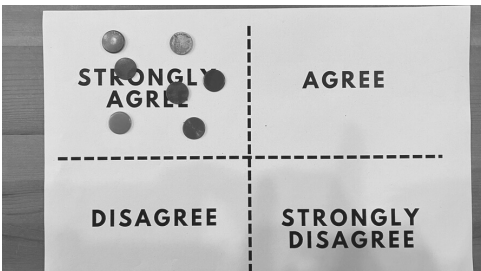
Diocese of  
**Leicester**  
Shaped by God

**Bishops Children & Youth Council**

# ROUND 02

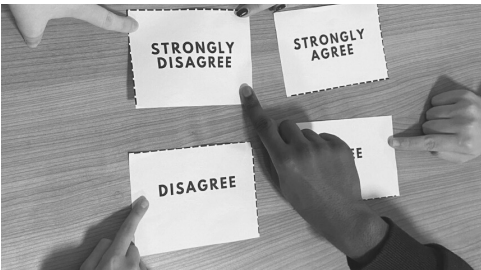
# STATEMENTS

Agree or disagree?



**Listening is important...**

Almost all participants '*strongly agreed*' that Listening is important



**I feel listened to at school...**

Younger participants tended to feel listened to at school. Whereas older participants did not feel as listened to at school.



**I feel listened to in church...**

Roughly half of participants felt listened to at church, half didn't feel listened to at church.

***'You are always being listened to by God'***

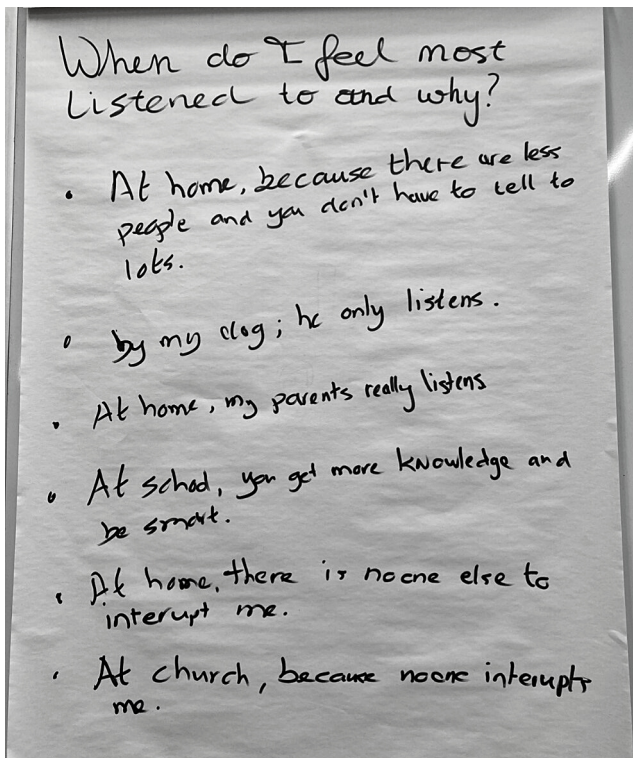
***'At Church we are encouraged to talk, so we are listened to'***

***'There isn't a lot of opportunity to ask questions in Church'***

# ROUND 03

# BIG QUESTION

When do you feel listened to the most? And why?



'I feel listened to the most when I am with my friends because I talk to them about life in more detail.'

'When I'm with one family member.'

'At home with my grandparents because they know what I'm going through.'

'When my dad is doing nothing, he listens to me.'

**'When someone looks at me. If I know they are looking at me, I know they're listening to me. Or if they ask me questions, I know they've listened.'**



# ROUND 04: FINISH THE SENTENCE...



## **I listen at school because...**

*'I want to learn things'*

*'I have to'*

*'I don't get listened to anywhere else'*

*'I want to get inspired and understand things better'*

*'I want to know what I'm doing and how to do it'*



## **I listen at church because...**

*'God is interesting'*

*'I don't really listen in church because it's for old people. I listen in youth group'*

*'I listen in church because my relationship with God is important to me'*

*'I only listen in tribe (youth group)'*

*'I listen at church to connect with God more. During services I listen only sometimes, depending on the sermon and how engaging it is. I can share my opinions and views at church and be listened to'*

*'I listen at church because what I hear will help me learn and grow in my faith'*



# ROUND 5

# AGENDA SETTING

What themes would you like to talk about at future listening groups?

Hospitality.

Intergenerational.

Social media - veivs, effects etc.

Climate change.

School support.

Parents.

Church services - how it works - being heard, being relevant, being engaging for young people.

Racism.

Cost of living crisis and poverty.

Inclusion and equality.



# KEY QUESTIONS

Reflecting on the responses from listening groups, Bishops Youth Council identified the following key questions to ask Bishop Martyn:



**How do you think the Diocese could help children and young people feel more listened to in church?**



**Why do you think church & club leaders are less listened to than parents or teachers?**



**Do you have any questions for our new Children & Youth Council?**





## Listening Groups

All Saints Primary School, Coalville.  
Hope Hamilton Primary School, Hamilton.  
Richard Hill Primary School, Thurcaston.  
Crossfire 2G, Groby & Ratby.  
St Cuthbert's Church, Great Glen.  
St Denys, Evington.  
St Pauls Church, Oadby.

## Sense-Making

Bishops Youth council:  
Annabel, Connie, Greg, Joel, Kathryn, Mary.

Facilitated by:  
Shayne Ardron – Bishop's Council & Synod Member  
Tracey Manns – Deputy Director, Leicester Diocese Board of Education  
Matt Long – Youth Engagement & Intergenerational Communities

## Get involved

We want to hear more young voices from across the Diocese!

Could you facilitate a listening group with children or young people in your context? Contact Matt or Tracey to find out more, receive updates and resources.

Matt Long > [Matt.Long@leicestercofe.org](mailto:Matt.Long@leicestercofe.org)  
Tracey Manns > [Tracey.Manns@leicesterdbe.org](mailto:Tracey.Manns@leicesterdbe.org)



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