

The 'staff accompanier' is the member of staff who is the key contact and lead person responsible for CAFOD's Young Leadership Programme in their school. To help save time, we've brought together top tips, useful resources, contact details and training day details into one place – everything staff accompaniers need to help them run CAFOD's Young Leadership Programme in your sixth form.

The role of staff accompaniers

Thank you for giving your students an opportunity to lead global justice action in your school. Together we can help our young people put their faith into action by working together to fight poverty and injustice in our local and global communities.

As the Staff Accompanier, we ask that you:

- Be CAFOD's point of contact
- Identify suitable students for training (students starting Year 12 with leadership potential)
- Ensure your students are accompanied and attend all face-to-face training and events and are supported in accessing online training resources
- Arrange travel for students and accompany your group to the training sessions
- Ensure your group meets throughout the term to organise and run activities for each challenge
- Identify opportunities for your Young Leaders to run school-wide awareness raising, fundraising and campaigning activities to inspire other students
- Ensure your group completes all three challenges and keep a record of activities undertaken by Young Leaders within school
- Encourage your Young Leaders to share action they've been taking via social media and local press to inspire other young people
- Are responsible for the health and safety of your students while at, and travelling to and from, the training. CAFOD completes a risk assessment for all face to face training sessions, which is shared with Staff Accompaniers before each day. Please note this also includes a note regarding staff and young people bringing a packed lunch with them.

While we encourage participants of the programme to be independent and 'take the lead' in the CAFOD Young Leadership challenges, we recognise that the Young Leaders will need some support from their school. We appreciate the value this support can bring, ensuring the Young Leaders' experience is productive and rewarding.

About CAFOD's Young Leadership programme

We know young people can take the lead in creating a better world and believe in investing in young people as future leaders who are inspired to put their faith into action and act in solidarity with our local and global communities. For this reason, CAFOD's Young Leadership Programme is free. In return, we ask that your school supports the Young Leaders in raising awareness, campaigning and fundraising for CAFOD during the year.

Programme structure

September: Promo and recruitment in your school.

Recruiting your Young Leaders; getting student and parent/carer consent. Young Leaders should complete the three reflection questions that are part of the registration process, and the pre-training research on the [Young Leadership website](#) (read the Young Leadership factsheet and watch two videos).

September/October: Training day 1. In-person session in your local area.

Introduction to the programme and training in leadership and communication skills for Challenge 1: Share the Stories.

January/February: Training day 2. Self-service training toolkit

Use our toolkit of training resources to developing skills in teamwork, time management and problem solving for Challenge 2: Fundraise for a Fairer World.

June: Training day 3: Conference

A national event where Young Leaders from across the country come together to develop skills in influencing and campaigning for Challenge 3: Campaign for Change, and celebrate their achievements so far.

CAFOD Young Leadership Programme and the CSI Inspection Framework

CAFOD's Young Leadership Programme aims to empower young people to lead global justice action in their school. Catholic Social Teaching is at the heart of the programme and the Challenges are rooted in our duty to share resources actively and strive for justice for our brothers and sisters.

The activities Young Leaders carry out each term as part of the Young Leadership programme provide an opportunity to show evidence of pupils' involvement in:

- charitable activities and campaigns
- advocacy work and campaigning work and transformational action for the poor, the marginalised and the unjustly treated
- activities that contribute to the life and mission of the school
- acts of solidarity with the poorest and most vulnerable in the world, such as water saving, Fairtrade or recycling schemes

Top tips for recruiting Young Leaders

There's no set way to recruit Young Leaders. Staff Accompaniers are free to recruit students in whatever way works best for your setting. Below are examples of some tried-and-tested recruitment methods.

- Using Young Leaders alumni as recruitment ambassadors

One of the best adverts for the programme is Young Leader alumni. In a recent evaluation, we found that 100% of CAFOD Young Leaders surveyed would recommend being a Young Leader to others. Interviewing past Young Leaders at an assembly or asking them to answer questions at lunch time can be an effective advert.

- Formal applications and interviews

A structured application process, with an application form and interviews, is often used in sixth forms where there are likely to be a large number of students who would like to be CAFOD Young Leaders. Young Leaders from the previous year are sometimes involved in shortlisting and interviewing.

- Identifying committed RS students

The principles of Catholic Social Teaching are at the heart of CAFOD's Young Leadership programme, making it particularly appealing to A level RS students and those interested in studying Theology and Religion at university. The programme is an opportunity to gather evidence of putting Faith into Action.

- Recruiting an influential or sociable student

Year 12 students, particularly those who are new to the sixth form, are often interested in developing their social connections. Some Staff Accompaniers start their recruitment process by offering a place to an influential or sociable student in the year who then encourages a broader group of students to get involved.

- Personal declaration of interest

Being a CAFOD Young Leader requires commitment and good communication skills. Some schools ask students to explain why they would like to be part of the programme and what they could bring to the role in terms of their skills and experience. To promote inclusivity, these statements don't need to be written; they could be short videos, presentations or posters.

Useful resources available at cafod.org.uk/youngleaders

- Student recruitment flyer
- Student Accompaniers information
- Resources to support Challenge 1: Share the Stories
- Resources to support Challenge 2: Fundraise for a Fairer World
- Resources to support Challenge 3: Campaign for Change

We have local staff in your diocese, ready to help.

Diocese	Name	Email	Phone Number
Arundel & Brighton	Jenny Finlayson	arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk	07710 094448
Brentwood Southwark (and Northampton) Westminster	Chris Driscoll	brentwood@cafod.org.uk southwark@cafod.org.uk westminsterschools@cafod.org.uk	07776 493162
Hallam Hexham & Newcastle Middlesbrough	Sharon Matthews	hallam@cafod.org.uk hexhamandnewcastle@cafod.org.uk middlesbrough@cafod.org.uk	07748 514641
Lancaster Liverpool Shrewsbury Salford	Annapaola Letizia	lancaster@cafod.org.uk liverpool@cafod.org.uk shrewsbury@cafod.org.uk salford@cafod.org.uk	07710 094449
Portsmouth	Jo Lewry (until October)	portsmouth@cafod.org.uk	07710 094447

Young Leadership Calendar 2025/26

Diocese	Training date 1	Diocese	Training date 1
Arundel & Brighton	Mon 13 October	Northampton Southwark	Wed 8 October
Brentwood	Tues 7 October	Liverpool	Fri 17 October
Hallam	Mon 20 October	Middlesbrough (Y10)	Tues 21 October
Hexham & Newcastle	Wed 22 October	Portsmouth	Tues 14 October
Lancaster Shrewsbury Salford	Thurs 16 October	Westminster	Thurs 9 October

Young leaders should complete the **pre-training before the October training day**. Please work through the second training module toolkit in your own time in the spring term, and submit all reflections to us by **Friday 20 March 2026**. The date of the final June conference (which will include the final training for challenge 3) will be shared as soon as possible.