

# Part-time Youth and Schools Worker – 12 month Maternity Leave Cover



## About The Feast

Young people today are growing up in a country surrounded by different faiths yet often lead separate lives. As a result young people can experience barriers of ignorance, fear and mistrust in their communities, which sometimes leads to hostility or conflict.

Our vision is to see young people of different faiths and cultures coming together to form real friendships that enable them to be peacemakers amongst their peers and in the world.

The Feast is all about:

- **Exploring faith:** young people are encouraged and equipped to discuss their faith in ways which explore their similarities and differences. In doing this they learn about the faith of others and gain new insights into their own faith.
- **Creating friendships:** by bringing together young people in a positive and fun environment we provide the opportunities for them to get to know one another, work together on projects and build friendship based on trust and respect.
- **Changing lives:** having been to events run by The Feast, young people are challenged and encouraged to live out the lessons they have learnt of friendship, understanding and peacemaking in their everyday lives.

Our core organisational values:

- We **celebrate difference**
- We are **positive**
- We are **authentic**
- We are **collaborative**
- We are **innovative**

## National Structure

Founded in Birmingham in 2009, The Feast currently employs a small National Office team and field staff in three UK locations - Birmingham (a Development Manager and two Youth Workers), Luton (a Development Manager and youth worker) and Tower Hamlets (a Hub Coordinator and one Youth Worker) - most of whom are part-time.

We are keen to employ people of all faiths and backgrounds and have both Christians and Muslims, from a mix of ethnic and backgrounds, on our current staff team.

The Feast's National Office is located in Birmingham, and consists of our Administrator, Finance Officer and National Development Manager.

In each of the locations of our work we have established Local Advisory Groups (LAGs), as devolved agents of our Board of Trustees, with the responsibility to set the direction, raise capacity and support staff in their local community.

## Summary

The purpose of the role is to deliver The Feast's distinct approach to youth work in Birmingham.

Salary: £25,000 (pro rata).  
Location: Birmingham  
Reports to: Birmingham Development Manager.  
Hours: 15 hours per week. 12 month contract.

## Main Functions of Role

- **Youth encounter youth activities** – plan, promote and lead fun youth events between young people of different faiths;
- **Schools Work** - deliver The Feast's schools programmes in schools across the West Midlands;
- **Connect with young people** – reach out to local places of worship, charities, projects or schools to engage with their young people, helping them to grapple with befriending neighbours who are of a different faith, ethnicity or background;
- **Empower others** – empower and encourage adults and young people to take action to positively contribute to their community, promoting positive stories and providing resources and training.

## Activities

The role will encompass many of the following aspects, through consultation with the Birmingham Development Manager:

### Youth Encounters

- A primary focus of The Feast and this position, throughout all aspects of the role, is to develop a programme of youth encounter activities for young people of different faiths and cultures.
- These are normally small groups, with say five from each of two groups of young people, and are usually run on weekends and school holidays. We require youth workers who will pursue new and innovative ways of bringing young people together.
- At each youth encounter young people will be trained and helped to talk together about their faith and culture, using The Feast's Guidelines for Dialogue.

### Connecting with young people

- Based on your faith and existing personal networks, you are to reach out to different groups of young people and invite them to talk and think about their engagement with peers of a different faith and culture. These may include programmes and discussions around identity, faith, racism and prejudice, and the challenges and opportunities we all face with diversity.
- You will work in one local secondary school, where The Feast has an existing connection, to meet with students. Working closely with school staff you would play a role in the school community, through the establishment of appropriate clubs or through leading or taking part in lessons, speaking in assemblies, organising faith walks and utilising lunchtimes and after-school times to engage with pupils. You will also organize and run connection activities with other schools, with the support of the Birmingham volunteers.

- The Feast staff and volunteers locally and nationally will provide direction and resources to use in this outreach.

### **Youth work and building capacity**

- You will seek to build positive connections and relationships with Christians, Sikhs, Muslims and other faiths from across Birmingham, from different cultural backgrounds, so as to ensure a diverse spread of involvement with The Feast and healthy interfaith youth encounters.
- The role will be required to promote the work and support the Development Manager to recruit and train volunteers to join The Feast and help run the Youth Encounter events.
- Young people are to be involved in setting up and running programmes.
- Nurture follow-up engagement with parents and families of students and leaders who attend event with The Feast is to be encouraged.
- Enable young people to impact other students and their communities, by sharing how they have overcome prejudice and participated in social action.
- You will work collaboratively with other members of the local team in organising and running local events and work with the Development Manager to identify training and development needs of those workers and volunteers engaged by The Feast.
- Promote The Feast locally and if necessary, nationally, to young people, schools, faith communities, and other relevant organisations. Alongside this you will write blog posts for The Feast website, and engage in social media as directed by The Feast's promotional plan.
- You will be responsible for effective but basic administration of the work, including maintaining records of young people and faith encounter events. In addition, you will record and document required outcomes.
- You will work with the Development Manager to ensure that child protection and health and safety procedures are followed diligently.

### **Management Structure**

The worker will be employed by The Feast.

The worker will report to and be managed by the local Development Manager.

The worker will report to their line-manager through regular meetings.

The worker will receive support and guidance by The Feast's other youth workers and will participate in national team meetings on a monthly basis.

### **Terms and Conditions**

The post is part-time, for an average of 15 hours per week.

Flexibility to work weekend and evening sessions will be required, resourced on a 'time off in lieu' basis. There are opportunities for extra hours during school holidays.

This post can be filled as a secondment from another organisation in which case The Feast would pay the organisation directly to release the Youth Worker.

There will be 5.6 weeks holiday entitlement and a proportion of bank holidays, along with 1 day for Religious Observance..

## Person Specification

Attributes	Essential	Desirable	How Identified
Qualifications and Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proven ability of engagement in schools</li> <li>-- Proven track-record of at organising successful youth events.</li> <li>- Ability to plan, deliver and evaluate work.</li> <li>- Qualification in youth work or a related activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Experience of working in a multi-faith environment.</li> <li>- Experience of interfaith encounters.</li> <li>- Experience of organising social-action based activities.</li> <li>- Experience of working with children and families.</li> <li>- Experience of developing and maintaining a supporter and contact base.</li> <li>- Experience of working with secular bodies in the area of youth and children's work.</li> </ul>	Application Interview
Special Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth work in a faith or schools context.</li> <li>- Knowledge of Child Safeguarding and Health and Safety legislation.</li> <li>- Understanding of interfaith dialogue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An understanding of how to work with schools.</li> <li>- An understanding of issues in multi-cultural and multi-racial areas.</li> <li>- An understanding of different cultures found within Birmingham.</li> </ul>	Application Interview
Circumstances Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Willingness to live within or close to the local area.</li> <li>- Flexibility to work weekends and evenings as required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An active faith.</li> </ul>	Application Interview
Disposition/ Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to engage with and enthuse those working with young people.</li> <li>- A desire to put the interests of young people as a priority.</li> <li>- Willingness to undertake professional development.</li> <li>- Ability to inspire people of faith to engage with The Feast.</li> <li>- Ability to form appropriate relationships with people of all backgrounds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to initiate and contribute creatively to team strategic planning.</li> <li>- An understanding of family situations and dynamics.</li> <li>- Commitment to working collaboratively with religious leaders.</li> </ul>	Interview

<p>Practical and Intellectual Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good written and verbal communication skills.</li> <li>- Computer literate.</li> <li>- Ability to network with appropriate people and draw in their expertise.</li> <li>- Ability to inspire people to volunteer with our youth events.</li> <li>- Ability to organise own workload and activities and to work on one's own initiative.</li> <li>- Ability to work with and lead groups of people.</li> <li>- A developed and considered theological perspective of life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An appreciation of, and respect for, the broad range of theology across and within different faith communities.</li> <li>- Ability to manage a budget and work schedule.</li> </ul>	<p>Application Interview Presentation</p>
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