

AMICUS

PART OF THE BB FAMILY

developing the members' experience of Adventure, Physical Activities, Interests, Community, Environment and Christian Leadership.

G Group Work

Much of what an Amicus group does takes place in small, young person led, groups. This allows young people to have full ownership of their programme and for leaders to facilitate effectively for them. Part of the Amicus Leader Training deals specifically with group work in an empowered setting.

H Humour

A good dose of humour is always needed when working with young people. Amicus is no exception to this rule!

I Ideas

Within an Amicus group there is less pressure on leaders to be the sole source of good ideas for the programme. With the emphasis on empowering young people to put together a programme, most of the ideas should come from the group. However, this does not mean that leaders can take a back seat, as they are there to facilitate!

J Jesus

The name Amicus comes from the Latin for 'Friend' and therefore in using this name there is the suggestion of 'Friendship' or 'group of Friends' or 'Friends of Jesus',.

K Knowledge, Skills & Attitude

As the Amicus approach is significantly different from 'regular' Brigade methods, leaders will act more as enablers and facilitators as opposed to deliverers and providers. Time is spent in outlining the different skills, knowledge and attitudes required in the Amicus Leader Training.

L Leaders

Amicus Leaders are appointed by the local church on completion of Amicus Leader Training, their role being to co-ordinate group activities and programme but not necessarily to deliver it.

An A to Z of Amicus

A Amicus

The Boys' Brigade launched Amicus in 1994 as an alternative programme for Seniors. It began as a pilot project and following an evaluation, the project has moved into a period of further development.

B Boys' Brigade

Amicus is part of The Boys' Brigade family, which is the largest Christian uniformed youth organisation in the UK with a total membership of around 95,000 boys and leaders.

C Church

Amicus groups can only be set up after consultation between a sponsoring church or similar organisation and the Amicus Project Manager. Amicus groups will ultimately come under the management of the sponsoring Church or organisation.

D Discipleship

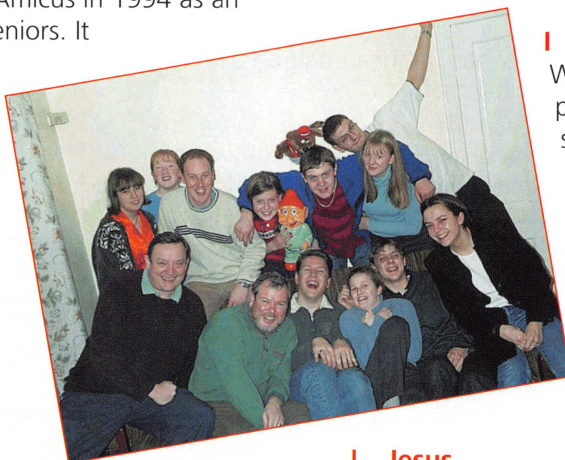
This is a process by which young people experience the Christian faith. In Amicus young people are given opportunities to see the Christian faith in action and are encouraged to grow at their own pace. Discipleship places emphasis on the relationship between the young person and leader where the leader is in a mentoring as opposed to a teacher role.

E Empowerment

Young people are given authority, responsibility and resources for their work. In Amicus young people set the aims and leaders act as facilitators in order for them to achieve agreed goals and targets.

F Five-Sided Programme

Amicus is less prescriptive than some of its counterparts and its members have a greater say in what happens and when. Groups determine their own programme that is structured, progressive and demanding. It is designed to meet the needs of the young people based on a five-sided framework



M Membership

Membership of Amicus is available to male and female, on an equal basis, between school year 9/10 (or equivalent) to 22 years.

N Non-uniformed

Uniform is optional and it is up to the group themselves to decide whether to have any kind of uniform. The pilot project demonstrated that where groups have chosen to adopt a uniform it is informal in style, displaying the approved Amicus logo as required.

O Operating Procedures

The operating procedures for Amicus along with other publicity and essential information are available from the Amicus Project Manager at The Boys' Brigade Headquarters.

P Participation

Where young people are involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation of all activities. A voluntary commitment by young people is much more conducive to the encouragement of experiential learning. There are many levels of participation. All Amicus members have an equal opportunity to contribute to the running of the group.



Q Quality

In an Amicus group quality is preferred to quantity. This doesn't mean that big groups aren't good things but emphasises that quality work can, and does, take place with smaller groups.

R Relational

Much of the work which takes place on a weekly basis in Amicus groups is concerned with making good relationships between young people and leaders.

S Support

As part of The Boys' Brigade each group has access to resources including programme material and training, national staff and a growing network of Amicus groups around the country.

T Training

Training for Amicus leaders is organised by the Amicus Project Manager. The training is delivered during one weekend in the host church. The course consists of

these main themes: Understanding Young People; Working With Groups; Programme Ideas; Christian Development.



U Unashamedly Christian

As part of the BB family, Amicus is unashamedly Christian and the Christian development of its members is a priority. Behind Amicus lies the belief that young people need to be given the space to develop in their faith.

V Variety

In Amicus the principles of empowerment, participation and discipleship remain the same for each group and yet the outworking of those principles will mean each group is different in character. This is producing a healthy variety.

W Worship

As part of Amicus' commitment to discipleship and spiritual growth, attendance at church worship is freely encouraged for group members.

XYZ Youth Work

Youth work as a means of social and personal education is different from school based education in that it is flexible in approach and not curriculum lead. It works on the principle of 'being a vehicle' to facilitate and support young people's growth through the transition from childhood to responsible adulthood/citizenship. Through this Amicus is able to raise young people's awareness of the range of decisions and choices open to them. It also offers opportunities for discussion and debate in order for young people to make informed choices.

If you need any more information or images on the Amicus Project then please contact Ben Mizen, The Amicus Project Manager, The Boys' Brigade, Felden Lodge, Felden, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP3 0BL. Tel: 01442 231681 Fax: 01442 235391 Emails: mizen@boys-brigade.org.uk

