



Godly Play Core Training (three-day course)

Guidance if you are considering asking for a course for your region

Partnerships

Godly Play UK trainers can deliver three-day Core Training courses throughout England and Wales. We are always pleased to explore opportunities to work with local churches, schools and organisations to bring training to new areas. Courses are most successful when planned in partnership with local churches, schools or organisations. Local partners can advise on suitable venues, help promote the course and connect with potential participants through existing networks.

Finance and Course Viability

To ensure that a course can be delivered successfully, all costs associated with the training must be covered. These costs include:

- Trainer fees
- Trainer travel expenses
- Accommodation and meals for trainers (where required)
- Venue hire
- Course materials and handbooks
- Administration costs
- Booking fees and other incidental expenses

A Core Training course is designed for 12 to 14 participants. While budgets are usually based on a minimum group of 12 people, a course may require 13 participants to break even if trainers need accommodation because they live too far away to travel each day.

Typical Course Costs

A typical Core Training course for 12 participants costs approximately **£3,906** to run. This figure includes all trainer, venue, administration and resource costs.

Participants are charged:

- **£315 per person** for bookings made more than two months before the course
- **£335 per person** for bookings made within two months of the course date

Typical Course Costs

Some of the largest expenses can be reduced with local support. Costs may be significantly lower if a host organisation can:

- Provide a suitable venue free of charge
- Arrange accommodation and hospitality for trainers

Where these arrangements can be made locally, the overall cost of the course can be reduced to approximately **£2,832**.

Local Sponsorship and Subsidies

In some regions, a local organisation, such as a Church of England diocese, Methodist circuit or URC Synod, chooses to sponsor a course. This can help to:

- Reduce costs for local participants
- Encourage greater participation
- Underwrite the financial viability of the course

Any subsidy would normally apply to participants from the sponsoring organisation, while participants from outside the organisation would pay the standard course fee.

Example

If five participants have already expressed interest in attending, the total income at the standard rate of £315 per person would be **£1,575**. If the host organisation is also able to provide the venue free of charge, Godly Play UK could offer one complimentary place, reducing the amount to be paid by those participants to **£1,260**. Godly Play UK would then advertise the course and seek bookings for the remaining places.

Course Budgeting

Godly Play UK prepares a detailed budget for each proposed course, taking account of trainer fees, travel and accommodation costs, venue hire, catering, administration and course resources. Organisations considering hosting a course are encouraged to discuss local arrangements with us, as providing a venue or accommodation for trainers can significantly reduce costs and improve the viability of a course.

Here are some things to think about...

Publicity and recruitment

Local people know their own area best and so local publicity and recruitment are vital. Godly Play UK are ready to work with you in creating wording and details for promoting a course. All three-day courses are promoted on our website and on Facebook, but you will probably have access to many more local networks and publications.

The venue

Financially, this is probably the biggest variable. Sometimes an organisation offers a venue at no, or very low, cost. Conversely, if a course is residential, the venue cost is likely to be quite high. However, it needs to be suitable for the purpose.

- It needs to be large enough to accommodate a circle of at least 14 people, and with an adjacent space as a breakout area.
- It should be clean and comfortable enough for people to sit on the floor, and warm enough in cold weather.
- There should be a space available for preparing teas, coffees, with a facility to keep milk cold.
- The space needs to be available for the duration of the course – no clearing away in the evenings. The venue must be available for trainers to set up the day before the course begins.

- There should be a place for trainers who are bringing equipment to park close to the building.
- It should be accessible, in both meanings of the term (i.e. accessible for someone with a disability, and also accessible easily by public transport, or with a means of collecting participants from a station.)
- It must be quiet enough to accommodate the training (e.g. no music lessons in an adjoining room!)

Trainers

- Each course is run by two trainers.
- Trainer fees form part of the overall course budget and cover training delivery, preparation, travel time, set-up and clear-away.
- If trainers are not local, accommodation for them will need to be available. Sometimes local homes can provide this, otherwise reasonably priced hotel accommodation may be required, together with breakfast and an evening meal.

Bursaries

Godly Play UK is committed to using 10% of its annual gain to provide a small number of bursaries to help people undertake a three-day course. Gifts from members of the Godly Play Associates scheme are also sometimes available to help people undertake core training. The conditions and parameters for this are set out below and bursary application forms are available to download from the website.

Criteria for receiving a bursary to attend a three-day accredited course:

- Applicants must be from churches and/or areas where resources are scarce (e.g. Urban Priority Areas, Rural Communities).
- Wherever it is possible, joint funding with other bodies to cover accommodation and travel costs is preferable.
- Ideally two applicants are preferable. This is to ensure mutual support as Godly Play is developed and established in the applicants setting after the course.
- Areas and/or denominations where Godly Play is not yet established.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate a thought-out strategy to disseminate Godly Play within their setting.
- Applicants will need a positive and supportive reference from their Church Leader to show they have the support of their denomination.
- Applicants should provide details of at least one – and preferably two – further referees who can positively support the application.
- Successful applicants will be expected to submit a progress report to the Chair of the trustees 6 months after the end of the course.