

Bishop's

Children & Youth

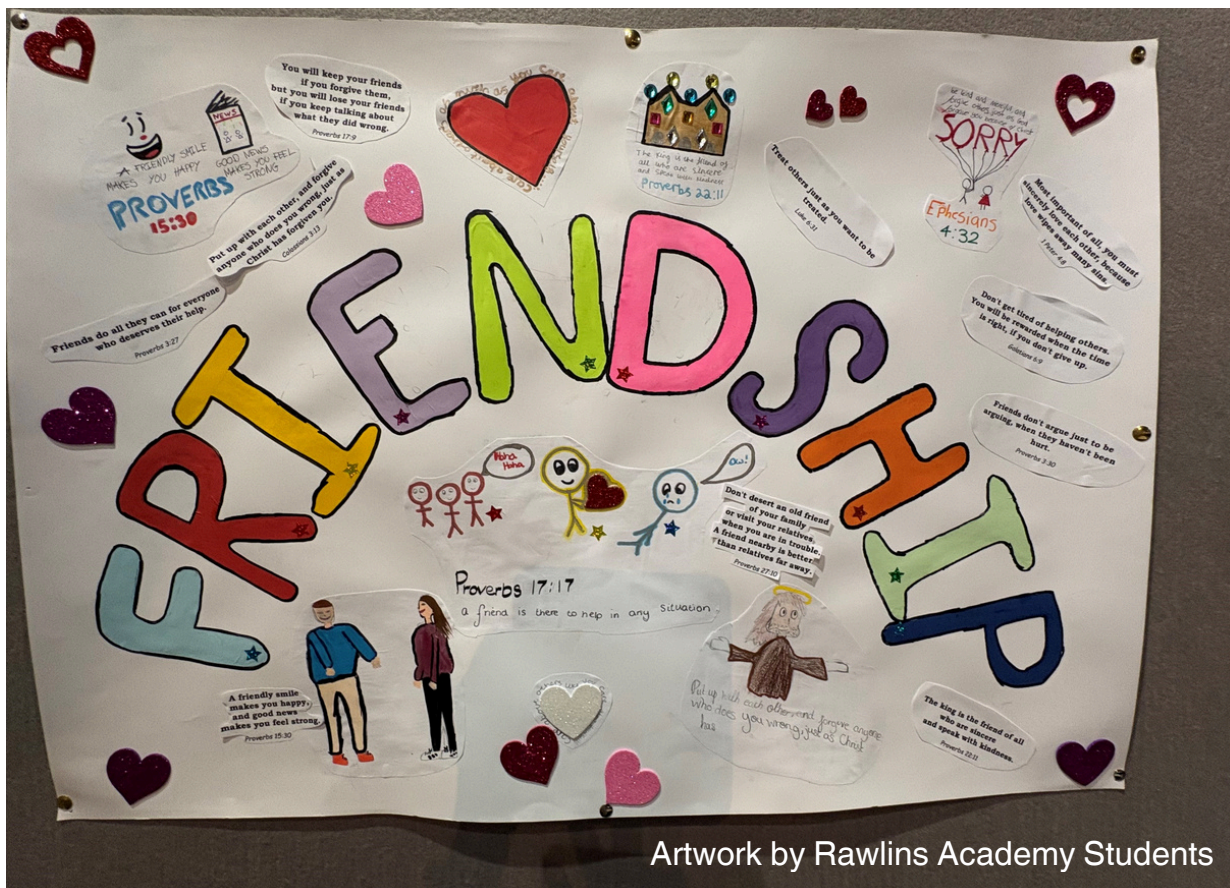
Council

Listening Report
Summer Term '26

Friendship

Listening theme

In Autumn 2025 we asked children and young people, *what do you want to talk about?* The top three answers: (1) Friendship (2) Social Media (3) Mental Health. In Summer Term 2026, we explored the theme **friendship**.



Artwork by Rawlins Academy Students

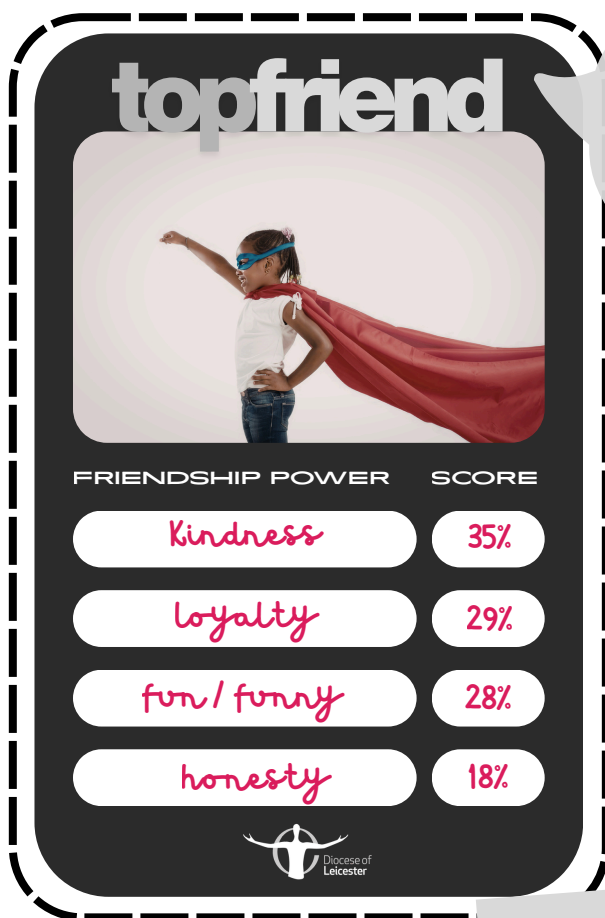
As of July 2026, we have heard from **1552** young voices across 21 primary, 4 secondary schools and 17 church groups via 9 listening exercises.

Resources, reports and responses: leicester.anglican.org/bcyc

FRIENDSHIP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



102 Young Voices. Made up of **49** children and **53** young people from **4** primary, **1** secondary school & **5** church groups. **34%** UKME/GMH



What makes a 'top friend'?

Best ways to make friends?



Most participants prefer to chat, play games & find it easier to make friends...

****drum roll, please****

...in real life!

Online?



VS



Real Life?

The Numbers



102

Young Voices

4

Primary Schools

1

Secondary School

5

Church Groups

49

Children (Primary Age)

53

Young People (Secondary Age)

60

Girls

42

Boys

34%

UKME / GMH



Roll Call



Arnesby C of E Primary School

Ellistown Community Primary School

Impact & Glow Youth Groups, Holy Trinity Leicester

Pathfinders, Emmanuel Loughborough

Rawlins Academy

Shine Squad, All Saints Primary, Coalville

St. Bartholomew's CofE Primary School, Quorn

St John's Church, Tuesday Night Youth

St John's Hinckley, Youth Group

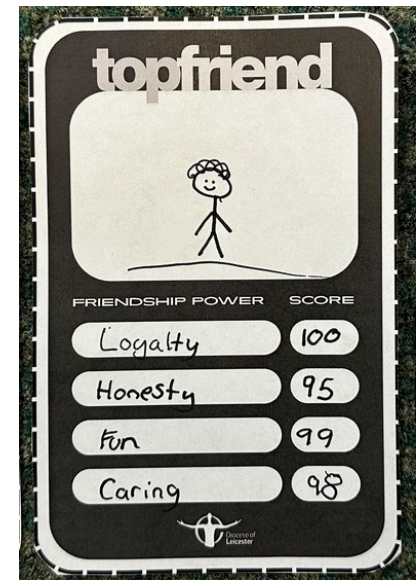
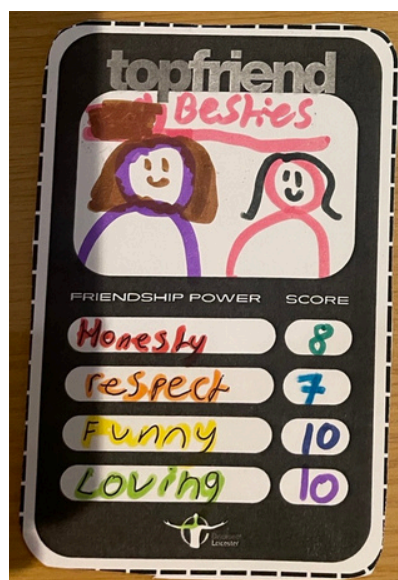
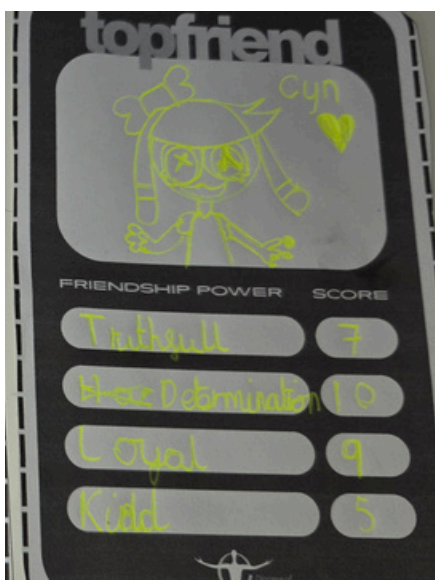
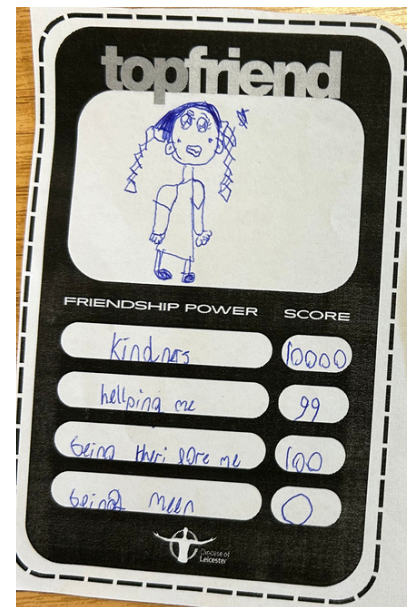
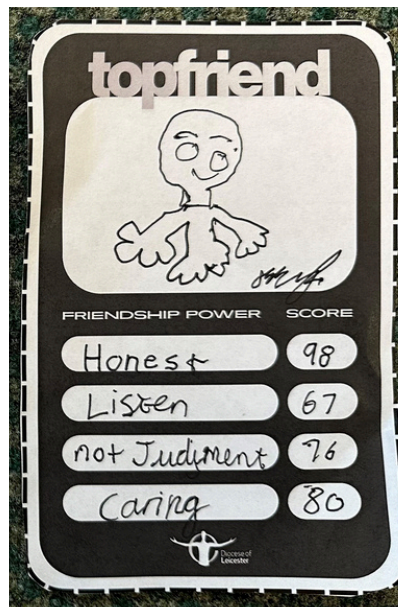
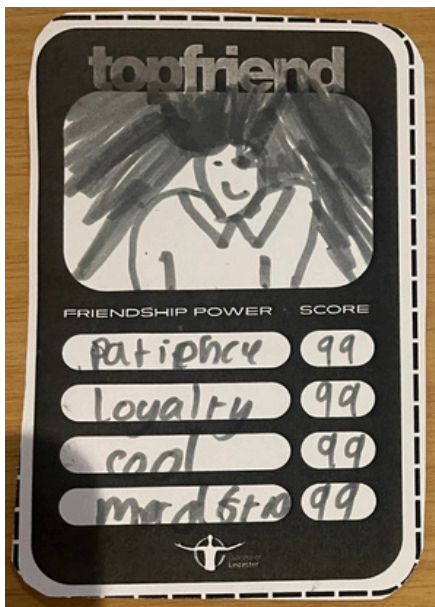
St Paul's Church, Oadby, Tribe Youth Group

A MASSIVE thank you to all children,
young people and facilitators for their
participation, enthusiasm and honesty!

Round One

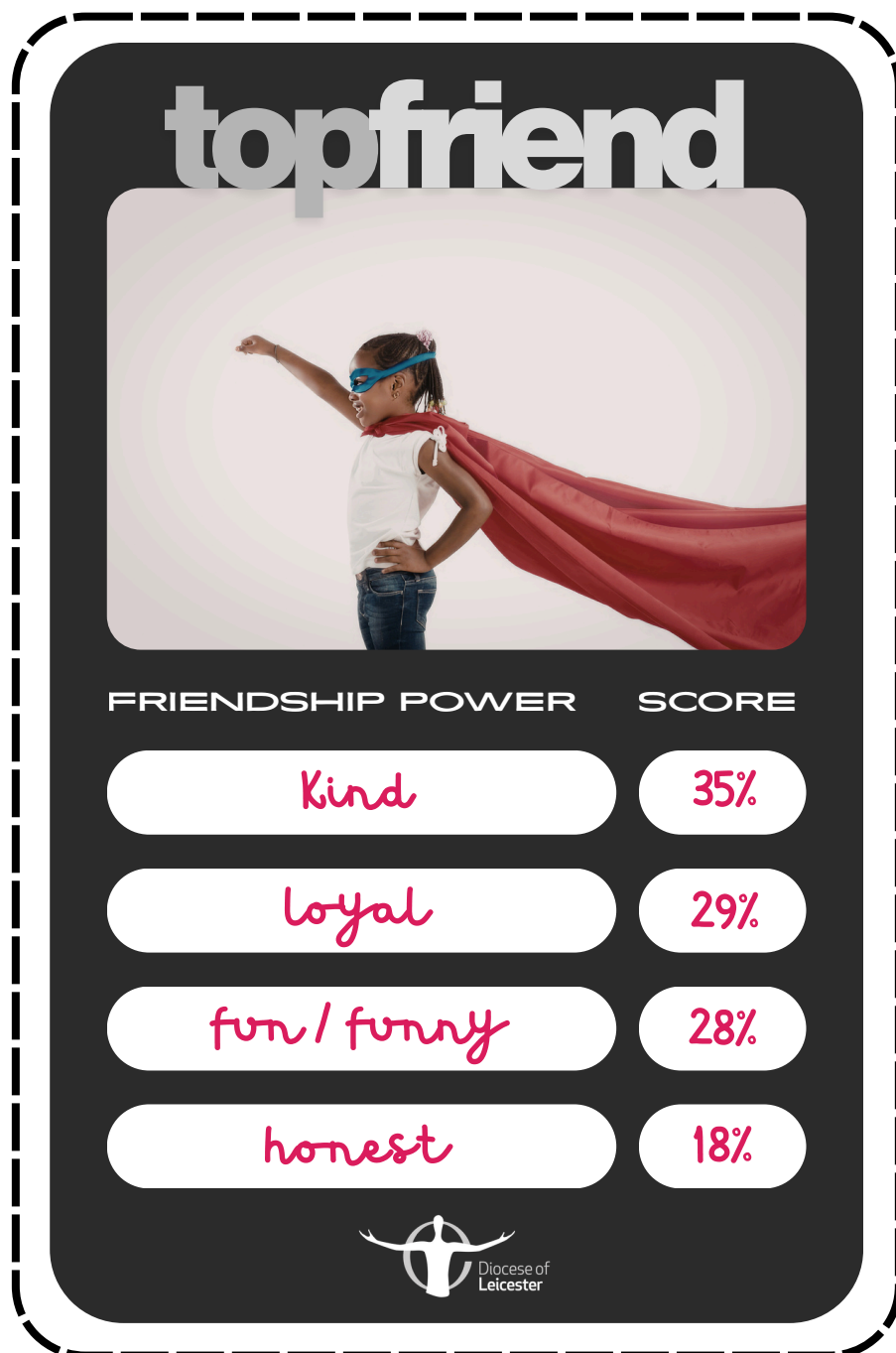
Top Friends

What we did: participants were asked to create a 'top friend card' to show the top qualities or characteristic of a good friend.



Kindness was the top friendship characteristic, appearing on 35% of topfriend cards. Followed by **loyalty** (29%), **fun** (28%), **honest** (18%) and **caring** (17%).

Other responses included helpful, listening, respectful, cool, hugable, football skills and spiderman!



Round Two

Online vs. IRL

What we did: a quick decision-making game where participants chose their preference or answer from two options. Played using movement.

Statements	Online	Real Life
1. Do you prefer to chat with your friends online or in real life?	10%	90%
2. Do you prefer to play games with your friends online or in real life?	31%	69%
3. Do you spend more time playing games online or in real life?	33%	67%
4. Do you spend more time chatting with friends online or in real life?	25%	74%
5. Do you find it easier to make friends online or in real life?	28%	72%



Almost all participants (**98%**) have fallen out with friends in real life. **58%** have fallen out with friends online.

Nearly half of participants (**44%**) have **different friends** online and in real life.

77% see **God** as a friend.

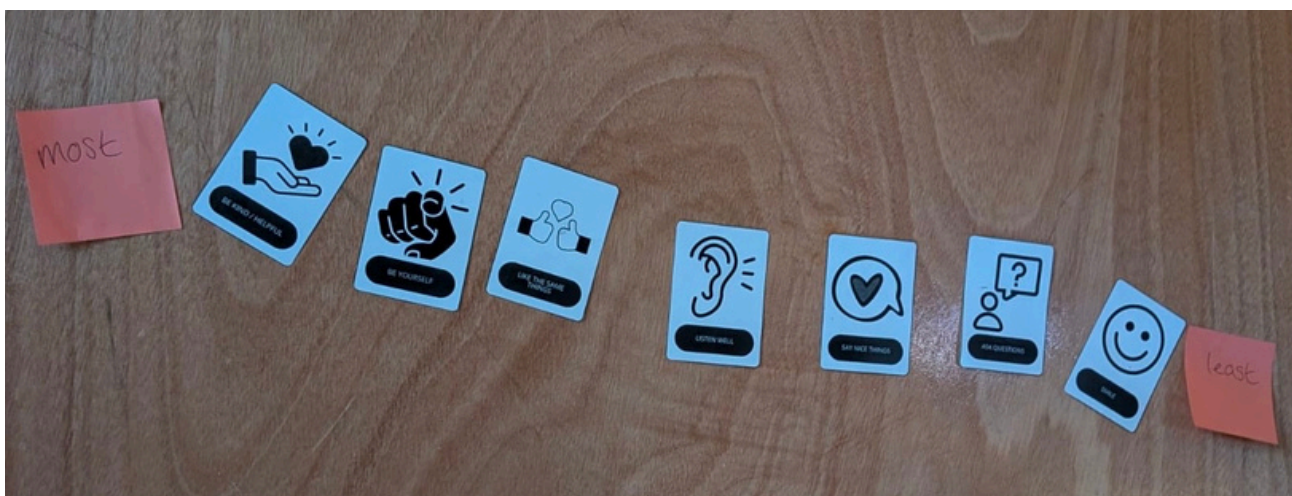


Questions	Yes	No
1. Do you have a best friend?	73%	27%
2. Have you fallen out with friends in real life?	98%	2%
3. Have you fallen out with friends online?	58%	42%
4. Do you have different friends online and in real life?	44%	56%
5. Do you see God as a friend?	77%	23%

Round Three

Making Friends

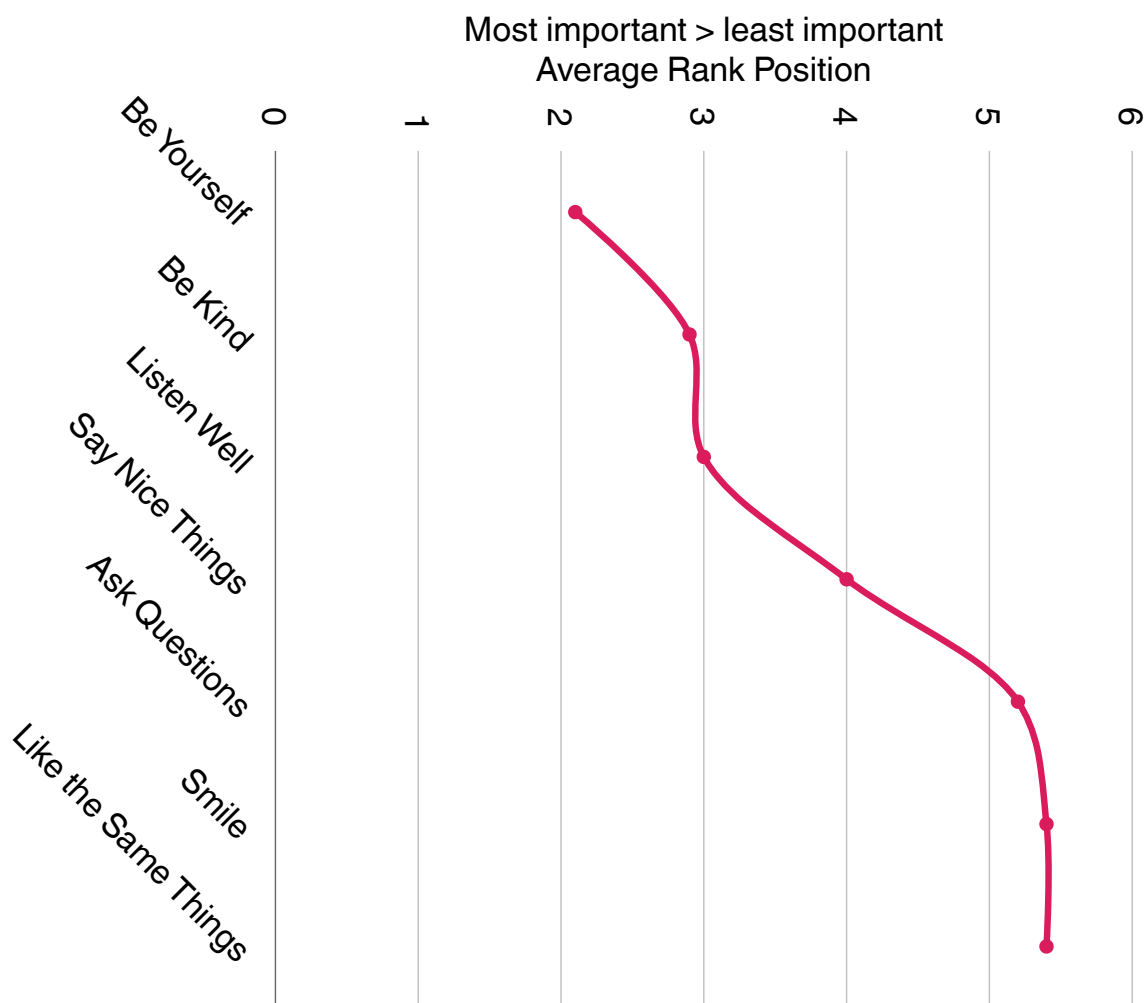
What we did: participants were invited to work in small groups, to rank a set of cards from *most important* to *least important*, for making friends?



Being Yourself was ranked the most important for making friends with an average rank position of 2.1 out of 7.

Followed by **Be Kind** (2.9 out of 7), **Listen Well** (3 out of 7) and **Say Nice Things** (4 out of 7).

Suggestions from young people included *jokes, helping others and eating together!*



What actually **Happens Next**

This report will be shared with participants, Bishop's Leadership Team and published on the Diocese of Leicester website.

Bishop Martyn & Bishop Saju will be invited to respond to the report via video. The video response will be shared with participants and published on Diocese website - leicester.anglican.org/bcyc

Contributors

Resource Design by young people at St John's Church, *Tuesday Night Youth*.

Reporting by Matt Long, Youth Engagement Officer.

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