



## Guidelines and suggestions for online engagement

The Hope Club material has been designed to encourage family engagement and be viable without any online engagement.

You might, however, want to augment the materials and build relationships with the families by being present online every day or every week of the Club, depending on how you are delivering it.

Essentially you can choose to:

	Pros	Cons
Pre-record material and post it on your website or youtube for children and families to watch at their convenience	Easy to prepare and more flexible for families. Does not require same level of safeguarding procedure	Copyright limitations mean you have to be very careful about licensing of content including video clips and songs
Live stream a session on a social media platform like Facebook and encourage interaction from families before, during and after the livestream	Immediate and engaging. Gives families opportunity to interact. Don't have to worry quite so much about licensing. As you are presenting rather than meeting you don't have to worry about the same level of safeguarding	Time bound. High pressure. Live means no time to edit and perfect!
Meet with children and/or families on a conferencing platform like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Hangouts, etc. You could choose to have a combination of pre-recorded material that children watch before joining an online small group discussion	More opportunities for conversation and relationship building	Requires managing and the same stringent safeguarding and risk assessment procedures that you would use to gather in person



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### Live Streaming and Pre-recording sessions

If you are doing a live session via facebook then you can use the powerpoint of the pictures to tell the story on a live stream or show the animated video of the story by Saddleback Kids, we do not own the copyright though, so you will be unable to use these as part of a pre-recorded session. We have, however, commissioned the 'Dan the Magic Man' videos so these can be uploaded onto your church website or used as part of a pre-recorded session.

If you are reading a story from a book, then you need to check with the Publisher if they are happy for you to read it to the public online (many aren't). We have provided some extra stories that you are free to use.

Encourage the children, particularly the younger ones to engage with the 'ready steady' activity before you tell the story, so that they are settled and ready to listen

In the 'Notes for Churches' for each session, there are song recommendations, but again check your licensing, and think about how you are going to integrate them into your programme. Not many of us like singing along to something we can't hear properly on our own!

### Facebook page

Whether you are live-streaming or not you can still use a Facebook group as a way of engaging with families.

You can:

- Post a wondering question and encourage their responses
- Ask families to post pictures of the craft or colouring they have done
- Ask for uploads of photos of the 'Make a Scene!' for each session
- Advertise extra ideas like the trails, or socially distanced outdoor gatherings like the picnic

### Conferencing Platform

Many of us knew very little about these platforms a few months ago, but they have now become part of our everyday. Each platform has its pros and cons, so decide which one works for you. We would strongly encourage you to practice with your team well in advance, so that everyone knows what they are doing.

Safeguarding must still continue to be top of your agenda, with consent still needed and correct ratios etc. being adhered to. Check out our [guidelines for online engagement with children](#):



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- Safeguarding online is the same as for a physical holiday club
- The recruiting of team, safer recruitment is the same as for a physical club
- Parents permission still needs to be sought
- Invites should be sent to parents
- Records of attendance and concerns should still be logged
- Risk Assessments are still essential for online holiday clubs.
- The Holiday Club needs to be short/keep each item short – we suggest 30 minutes maximum, possibly with a live video conferencing session via Zoom or similar added on. This will mean it is necessary to miss things out that you may have historically done in your Holiday Clubs.
- Include variety in what you do, so choose wisely.
- Think about the essential elements and be sure to include them (Bible, prayer, fun)
- Plan it carefully and decide who is doing what and share it out, ensuring it plays to people's gifts
- Script it and stick to it, to be sure you keep to time.
- If possible (and with relevant permissions), invite children to send in their contributions and include them.
- Make sure you have the correct licenses for songs, video clips etc, otherwise your videos maybe pulled down from platforms such as YouTube.