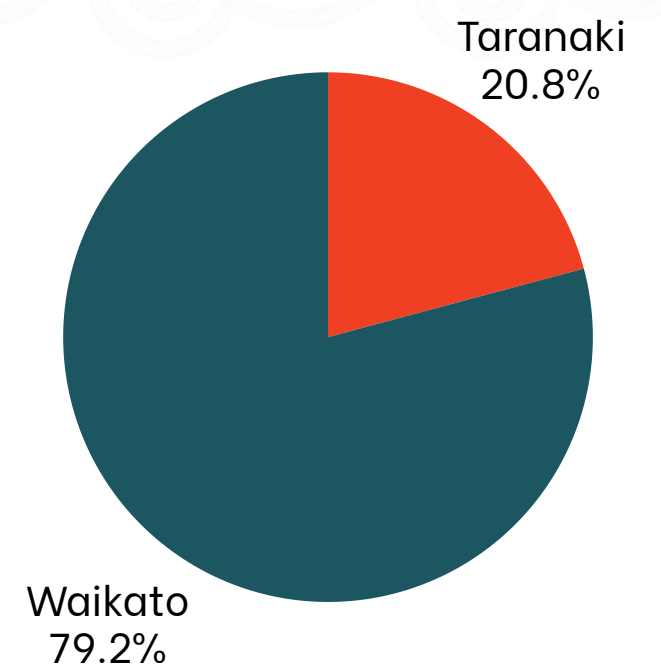


# Anglican Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki Children, Youth and Families Ministry Report

ACROSS THE DIOCESE WE HAVE 48  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BEING LED BY CLERGY  
AND LAY LEADERS.

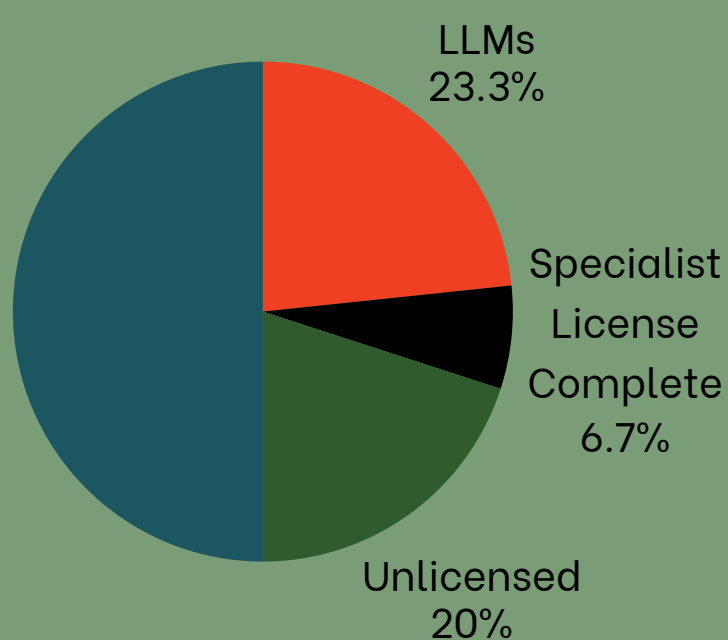
Of our 47 parishes, 49% have a regular children's ministry.



## CHALLENGES

Finding leaders is a pressing issue for 20% of parishes. In 2 cases, ministry stopped due to lack of leaders. Irregular attendance makes building momentum in ministry difficult.

Specialist  
License in  
Progress  
50%



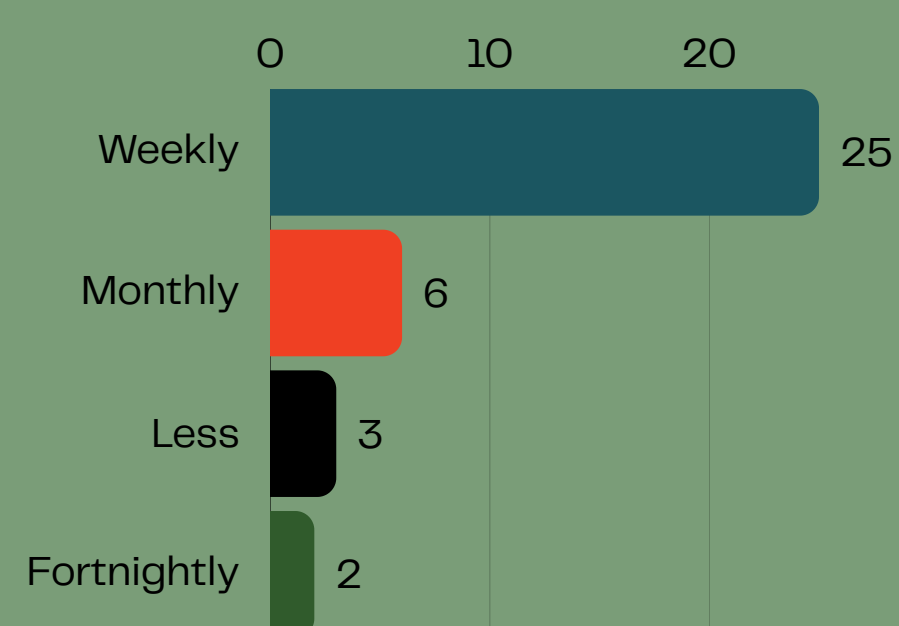
## LICENSING

**As of January 2026 all children's ministry leaders were required to be licensed.**  
Specialist licenses = 2  
Specialist in Progress = 15  
LLMs = 7  
Unlicensed = 6



## LEADERSHIP

There are 30 youth and children's lay ministry leaders.  
All are women, 2 are paid, 28 are volunteers.



## FREQUENCY OF PROGRAMMES

Majority are weekly programmes.

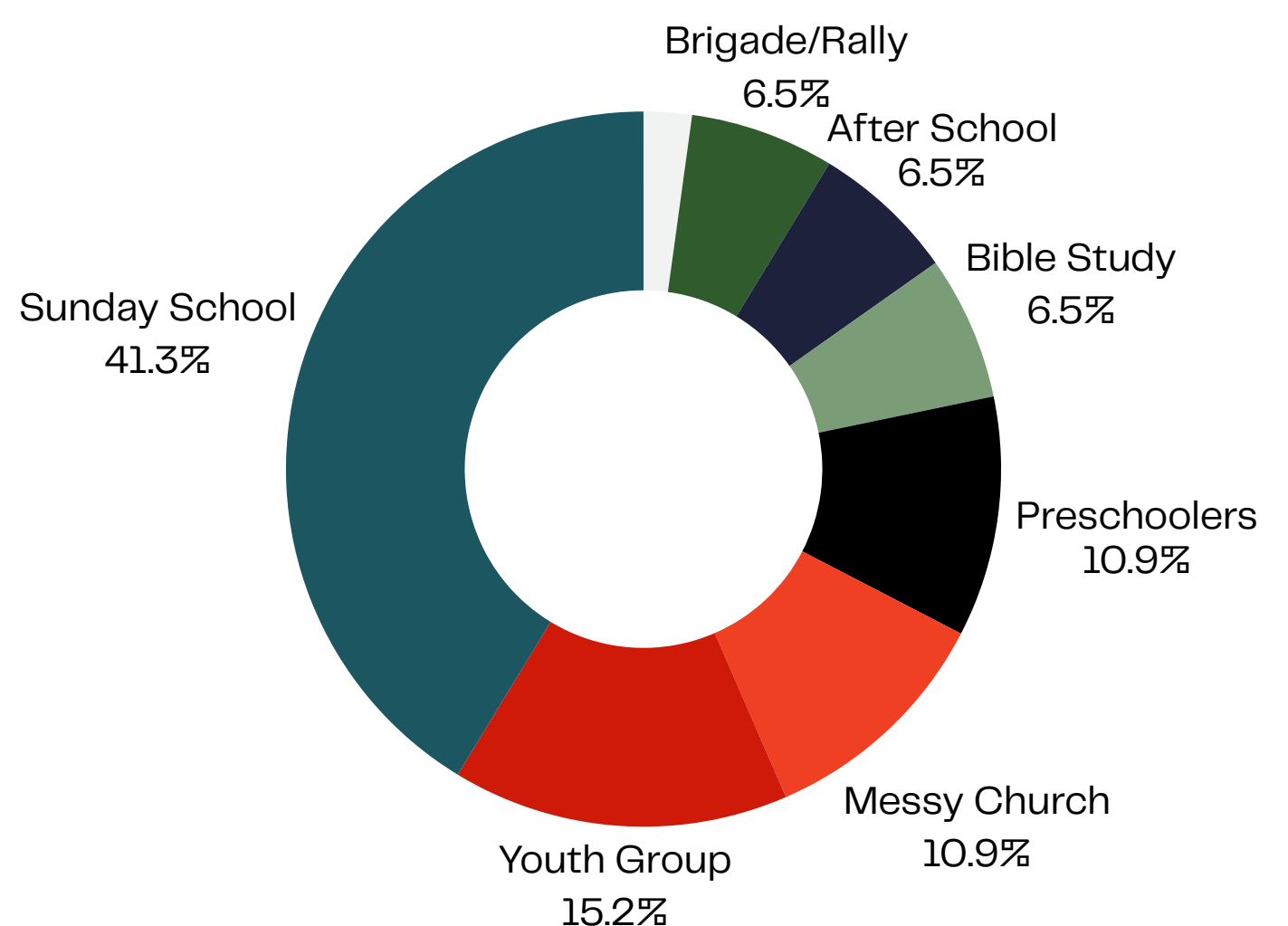
## AVERAGE NUMBERS OF ATTENDEES

Large range 4-250  
Median of 12

## YOUTH

- 4 parishes hold regular youth ministry.
- Several others have a few teens but not enough leaders or interest to sustain ministry.
- Collaborative efforts in Waikato have not gained traction.
- A Diocesan group attending Easter Camp 2027 will hopefully help with connecting youth across Waikato.

## TYPES OF MINISTRY



# Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki Children, Youth and Families Ministry Report

## GREEN SHOOTS

5

new ministries have launched this year including a new messy church, playgroup, and youth group.

37

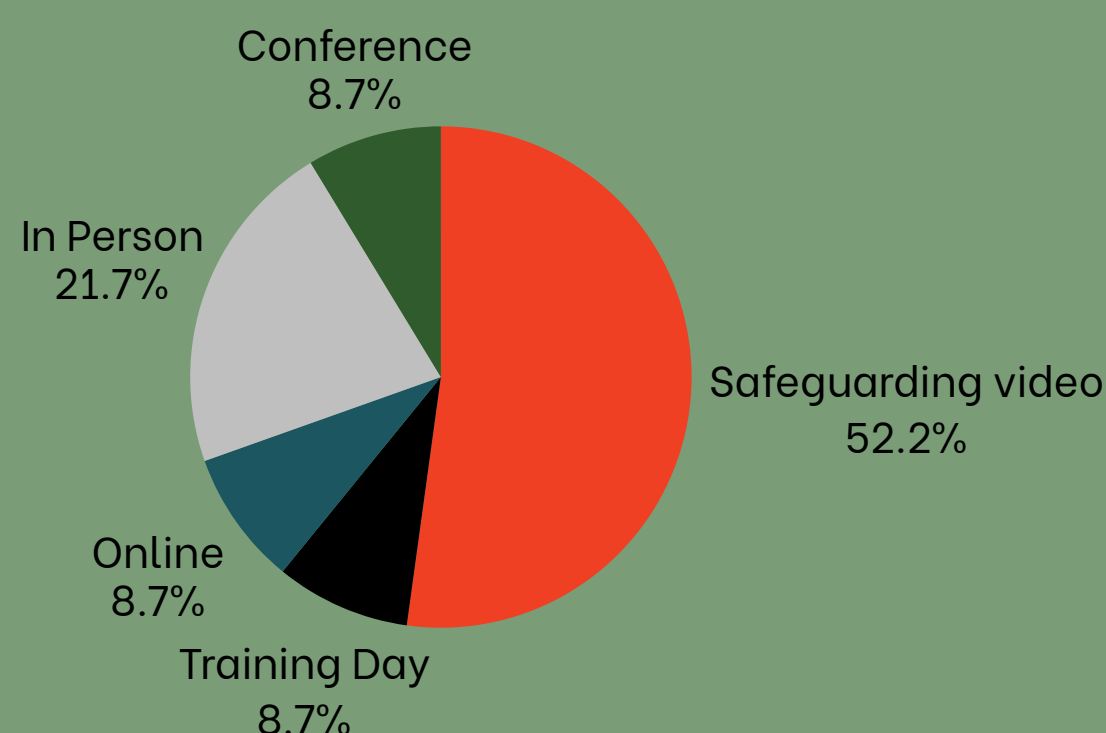
Infant/Youth Baptisms

12

Confirmations

11

parishes have had new families attend services regularly over the last year.



### TRAINING

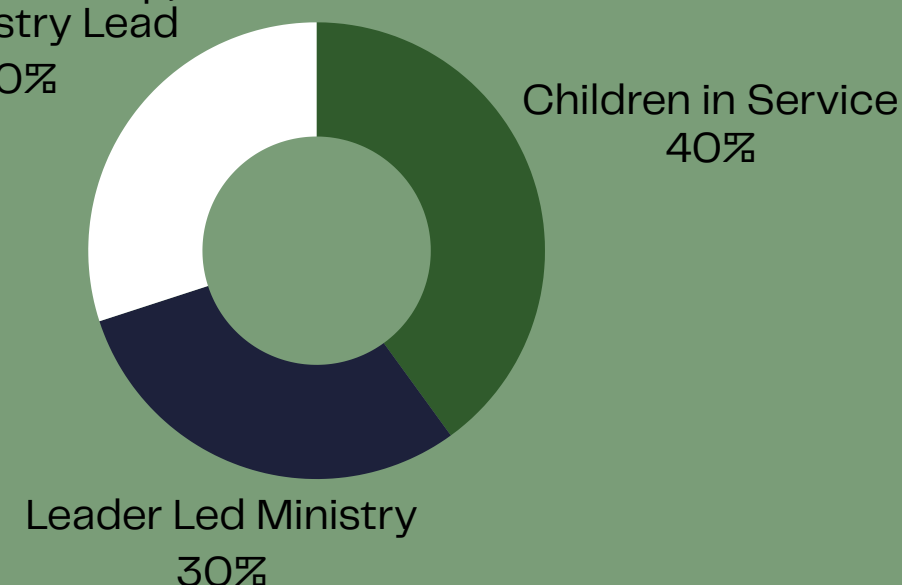
This year, ministry training was available via virtual workshops, in person gatherings, training days, conferences and a safeguarding video. 52% of ministry leaders have participated in one of these.



### CLERGY INVOLVEMENT

Of our 48 CYF ministries, clergy are regularly involved in leading 6 of these.

Rostered Group,  
No Ministry Lead  
30%



### SUNDAY SERVICES

22 parishes have children attending Sunday services regularly. 60% of these parishes offer a programme where children leave the service. 30% of these programmes rely on a roster of parents, making consistency, discipleship, and sustainability difficult.

### OUR ANGLICAN SCHOOLS

3750 STUDENTS ACROSS 5 SCHOOLS  
3 OF THESE SCHOOLS HAVE CHAPLAINS.  
LESS THAN 1% OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ATTEND A LOCAL ANGLICAN PARISH.

## DISCIPLESHIP

8 Waikato parishes have intermediate-aged girls seeking recommendations for Waikato Diocesan School for Girls. Clergy are frustrated that often, after investing in these wāhine, they disappear once they go to High School.

How can parishes be best supported to disciple young people and integrate them into parish life?

The Faith Project is a promising resource.



*Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki*

# Children, Youth and Families Ministry Report

## IN SUMMARY

- Children, youth and families are attending our parishes!
- New families, new ministries and new leaders are great signs of life.
- Numbers can never capture the relationships formed between people, nor the impact on lives and communities, but they do help draw our attention to patterns and areas where we'd like to see change.
- Overall, I've seen that ministry is incredibly difficult to sustain without key leaders who can commit a good portion of their week to this important mahi. This is made difficult with the increased cost of living which has led to many volunteers, mothers of young children in particular, to seek paid work elsewhere.
- To see our tamariki and rangatahi grow in their faith and become participating members of their parishes, church leaders who are adapting their programmes to accomodate for young people are key.
- Clergy are often our most theologically and pastorally equipped. Finding ways for families to be involved alongside our trained leaders is a must.
- Through professional development, national and global colleague connections, I have seen that guiding parishes towards bringing the generations back together will benefit us all.

*Rachel Thorpe*

Children and Families Ministry Enabler



## MY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Church leaders explore an intergenerational approach to ministry.
- Priority placed on CYF leaders attending training.
- Church leaders supporting lay leaders with licensing paperwork.
- More support for parishes to disciple Diocesan school applicants.

