



Setting Up a New Pilots Company

Pilots companies are there to serve the needs of communities where they function. Some are big, some are small. Some meet weekly, some meet monthly. Some have all the age groups represented, others have one. Whoever you are, wherever you are, Pilots could serve your community.

Starting a Pilots Company is easy. Here are some simple steps to help you:

1. *Discuss the idea with your local Church Meeting and leadership team* – Every Pilots company must be connected with a local church to offer support and prayer to the company.
2. *Approach those who might be able to help* – Pilots Captains and Officers must be over 18 years of age and be practising Christians.
3. *Contact your Regional Pilots Officer (RPO)* – They will be able to offer help and give advice to you throughout the set-up process and beyond.
4. *Return to the Church Meeting for agreement to go ahead* – The approval of the Church Meeting is needed to allow things to proceed. The Church Meeting must also formally appoint the Captain and other Officers.
5. *Register with the Pilots Desk* – This will allow you to receive the latest information, resources and materials to help run your company and plan your programme.
6. *Set the date for the first meeting* – And off you go!

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Some questions to consider:

Q Where will we meet?

A In premises that are safe and comply with the URC's Good Practice policy.

Q Who can be leaders?

A Each Pilots Company has a Captain and a team of Officers. The Captain must be a church member, and all officers must be practising Christians over the age of 18.

Q Who can we turn to for help?

A Regional Pilots Officers (RPOs), the Pilots Desk and the URC's Children's and Youth Development Officers (CYDOs) are always available to provide information, advice and assistance.

Q What are the costs?

A Running a Pilots company involves a one-off Registration Fee (currently £40) usually paid by the church, an annual Affiliation fee (currently £4 per Pilot) and any other expenses you may incur locally on crafts, games, etc. for your programme. Money, though, should never be a barrier to running a Pilots company. Be sure to contact your RPO, the Pilots desk or your CYDO if you need support.

Q What next?

A It might be good to invite children, parents/carers and members of the church to a Pilots 'taster' meeting to see how things go. Once this has been help, think about how things went and who might be interested in getting involved.

Q We've decided to go ahead, what do we do now?

A The Church Meeting must register the Pilots Company and formally appoint the Captain and Officers. With appropriate approval obtained, set the date for your first meeting and take time to plan for it. Consult your RPO about an inauguration service. At this service, the Pilots Company will be officially launched and the Captain and officers will be commissioned. You may wish the RPO to present the certificate of registration from the Pilots Desk during this service.

Q What happens when we register?

A The Pilots Desk will send out a Registration Pack including a copy of 'The Compass' (the main Pilots manual), the latest annual Worship Materials, the latest edition of The Bridge biannual magazine, sample Pilots button badges and list of Pilots materials and merchandise available to purchase from the Pilots Desk, such as Pilots Flags, Log Books, Crest Stickers... and lots more!

Q What is *The Compass*?

A 'The Compass' is the main manual of Pilots, containing a mixture of information, programme suggestions, ideas, resources, worship material, crests, games and much more.