

## FZY Summer Camp 2023 - FAQs

The following FAQs and answers are based on the situation as of January 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 and are subject to change in line with Covid-19 developments in the UK and the [Terms and Conditions](#) for application to an FZY Summer Camp.

### About FZY & FZY's Summer Camps

#### What is FZY?

The Federation of Zionist Youth UK (FZY) is a Jewish Zionist Youth Movement, strengthening Jewish and Zionist identity whilst creating a strong and vibrant Jewish community for tomorrow. At FZY we strive to challenge, stimulate, educate and excite British Jewish youth through an array of programming. FZY works within a pluralist framework and therefore welcomes and respects members from different Jewish and political backgrounds, whilst providing a space to explore your own Jewish identity and that of others. [Check out FZY's website](#) for more information about FZY's ideology and programmes.

#### What is Ofek?

FZY is a lifechanging journey, and the first step along this path is Ofek. FZY's 8-night summer camp provides not only a great soft landing into the UK's oldest and largest Zionist youth movement but offers a fun and exciting way for participants to spend part of their summer holidays. Ofek brings together young people from across the UK providing a safe space to meet new friends whilst spending quality time within their existing relationships. For further information, explore [FZY's summer camp section of its website](#).

#### What is Keshet?

Keshet is FZY's 11-night summer camp that provides a fun and exciting way for participants to spend part of their summer holidays. Keshet brings together young people from across the UK, plus a delegation of Israeli peers, providing a safe space to meet new friends whilst spending quality time within their existing relationships. For further information, explore [FZY's summer camp section of its website](#).

#### What are the dates of camp?

Ofek is from 26<sup>th</sup> July – 3<sup>rd</sup> August whilst Keshet will be running from 23<sup>rd</sup> July – 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Although not expected, all dates are subject to change.

#### What age participants is Ofek and Keshet for?

Ofek is for young people that are finishing school years 7 and 8 (S1 and S2 in Scotland) and Keshet is for young people concluding school years 9 and 10 (S3 and S4 in Scotland) at the end of the 2022/23 academic year. For information about other programming FZY will be facilitating for other age groups, see the [FZY website](#).

#### Will Ofek and Keshet be residential or a day camp?

FZY is planning and opening applications for residential camps only this summer. According to current government guidance for out-of-school settings, residential camps are able to operate. If this changes in the future FZY will adapt its planning accordingly, but currently we are planning to run residential camps only this summer.

#### What will the participants do on Ofek and Keshet?

A detailed schedule will be sent to applicants and their families nearer the time of departure. There will be a mixture of fun, educational and team building activities which will be safe, engaging and ideological. Most of the activities will take place on the large grounds of the site we are using, although we are expecting to leave the site on 1-2 occasions guidelines permitting. For anyone who is familiar with a traditional British

Zionist youth movement camp and are looking for this type of experience will find this on Ofek and Keshet. More details can be found in [FZY's summer camp section of its website](#).

### Where are the camps?

For security reasons, the exact address will only be provided to families after they have registered and been accepted on the programme. Both Ofek and Keshet will be taking place in the UK.

### Will the camps be taking place indoors or outside?

The site we are using is indoors but has large outdoor fields and space to use.

### How many participants will sleep in a room?

Rooming at the site ranges from two people in a room to larger dormitories. All participants will share a room with at least one other person from their camp.

### How many participants will there be on Ofek and Keshet?

This will partially depend on how many people apply. There is space on the site for approximately 200 people and FZY may have the ability to cater for a camp larger than this if required.

### How many people will be on Ofek and Keshet from each year group?

This really depends on how many people apply from each year group. FZY have a maximum number of people we can facilitate overall for our camps; however, this can be broken down in whichever way works best between the school years. FZY will do its best to both accommodate the needs of those that sign up and to ensure balanced camps.

### Do the Ofek and Keshet camps mix or are they separate?

The current plan is for Ofek and Keshet to be on the same site as one another, however for the two camps to be completely separate. There will be different staff and rooming assigned to each camp. There may be a few small areas when the camps will overlap, i.e., Shabbat services, but on the whole Ofek and Keshet are treated as two separate camps and will not spend any significant time together.

### Do the year groups within Ofek and Keshet mix or do they have separate programmes?

The Ofek and Keshet summer camps are entirely integrated between the two school years that each camp accommodates. The kvutso (groups) and rooming will likely have participants from both school years in them, so as to best integrate the camp as a whole. FZY aims to keep the Ofek and Keshet summer camps separate from each other, even though they will likely be on the same site for the most part.

### Will the participants be with their friends?

FZY's plan is to place participants with their friends whilst at the same time ensuring they get to be with some new people. As part of the application process you will be asked to highlight some people you would like to be in a kvutso (group) / room with. FZY will then attempt to split the groups and rooming as best as we can based on friendship requests and ensuring groups that are balanced. All participants will have plenty of time they can spend with other summer camp participants even if they are not placed in the same room or kvutso as them.

### Can I join Ofek or Keshet for a selection of days or a shorter time?

The basic answer to this question is no. However, if you have a personal situation that you believe may be 'exceptional' then please be in contact with the FZY Office who can determine whether there is anything that can be done about your specific case.

### Will transport be provided?

Yes. FZY will provide transport to / from the site from the main centres our participants come from across the UK.

### Who are your staff?

FZY as a youth movement is more than 110 years old. We have decades of experience of running activities for young people and we do so in a professional manner. Most of our staff are graduates of one of FZY's leadership development training courses and most have previous experience of leading activities for young people. The majority of FZY's leaders will have been a participant on an FZY summer camp or other activity over the last decade so will understand where the young people are coming from. The FZY staff will also be joined by a delegation of Israeli leaders from FZY's sister youth movement, the Tzofim, who have similar training and experience. The leaders are supported by a professional staff based between FZY's London and Israel offices who between them have decades of experience building these types of programmes.

### What are FZY's staff to child ratios?

FZY's [Safeguarding & Child Protection](#) policy aims for there to be at least one leader to every six young people. We are likely to see a greater number of staff to young people than this so we can best cater for everyone's needs whilst also overseeing the camp generally, dealing with the logistics, and managing the group leaders.

### What are the prices of Ofek and Keshet and what does this price include?

FZY has an early bird price in addition to our standard price. These are the prices:

- Ofek Early Bird Price – £1,225
- Ofek Regular Price – £1,325
- Keshet Early Bird Price – £1,425
- Keshet Regular Price – £1,525

The price includes accommodation, three meals a day, travel to and from the site from major centres, staffing, activities, and security. The price does not include spending money (i.e., for tuck shop and merchandise) and travel insurance.

### Will the participants need spending money?

FZY will operate a tuck shop throughout Ofek and Keshet that will sell snacks and FZY merchandise / clothing. We recommend participants bring with them a small amount of spending money to purchase these things if they want.

### What food will be provided?

FZY provides a fully kosher camp and will provide three substantial meals a day. After decades of running seminars and camps, FZY understand what our participants want to eat, and we provide a nutritious menu of healthy tasty food.

### Can FZY cater for special dietary requirements?

FZY will cater for all dietary and allergy requirements if we are made aware of these in advance. Ofek and Keshet are nut-free environments.

### How does Shabbat look in an FZY camp?

Shabbat is often one of the best days on Ofek and Keshet as we create a real '*Shabbatmosphere*' that encapsulates the whole site. FZY is a pluralist youth movement, and as such do not dictate or educate how participants should / shouldn't observe Shabbat. We will provide three different services / options for participants to engage in on Friday night and Shabbat morning and all the activities that we offer operate within the laws of Shabbat. In public places we ask that the participants do not break Shabbat, but in their rooms and private spaces they are able to as they wish.

### Can participants use their phones?

Mobile phones, tablets and other communication devices will be collected by staff at the start of the Ofek/Kesher. We do this to create a positive and inclusive environment where participants can focus on programming and each other rather than be distracted by technology. At a few times throughout camp, and in designated areas, participants will have access to their phones to make calls home should they wish.

### What is the procedure if a participant is unwell?

There will be both a first aider and a welfare lead on each of FZY's summer camps for the duration of the programme. If a participant is feeling unwell or requires extra support, these staff will be available to assist alongside the group madrichim (leaders).

### What happens with medication during Ofek / Kesher?

FZY will collect all medication at the start of camp to ensure this will not get lost or misused. The first aiders will make this medication available to participants as and when required. For those participants that have a headache or something similar, the first aider will have medication to provide participants. Parents/Guardians will need to approve through the online application form that these medications can be administered if there is a need during camp.

## Application Process

### How do I sign up?

To sign up you need to complete a short online application form which can be found on [FZY's website](#). This must be accompanied with a deposit which can also be paid online via the application form. A more thorough application and medical form will be sent later in the process.

### How and when do I pay?

A deposit is required upon initial application and there is a section in the initial online application that can process payment of this. The full balance of the Programme is due and must be paid no later than 23:59 Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023. Payment using credit / debit card through FZY's online payment system is preferable, although other payment methods are accepted. Contact Ruth ([ruth@fzy.org.uk](mailto:ruth@fzy.org.uk)) at the FZY office to explore additional payment methods.

### What if I can't afford the full cost of Ofek/Kesher?

FZY is an inclusive youth movement and we understand, especially during the challenging financial times brought about by inflation and the Covid-19 pandemic, that not everyone can pay the full price for its summer camps. Therefore, there is some financial assistance available for families that are unable to pay the full price of the programme from FZY and the [Friends of FZY](#). As part of the initial online application form there is an opportunity to request financial assistance. If you require further information and/or your circumstances have changed and you did not request financial assistance on the initial application form, please contact Claire ([claire@fzy.org.uk](mailto:claire@fzy.org.uk)) at the FZY office in confidence. She will be able to explain the financial assistance process further and answer any questions you may have.

### Are there limited spaces on Ofek and Kesher?

Yes. The site we have contains a limited number of beds and for FZY's ability to effectively provide a great summer camp experience in a safe environment, there is a maximum number of participants we can accept. FZY is hopeful we can cater Ofek and Kesher summer camps for all those that want, but there may be limits as to the number of participants that we can cater for based on applications and other factors.

### [Will my child have priority if they have been on the Noar programme this year or on a previous camp with FZY in the last 12 months?](#)

Yes. Those participants that have been enrolled within FZY's Noar programme this past year and/or were on another FZY camp in the last 12 months will receive priority if they apply before 23:59 on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023. After this deadline passes, FZY can no longer provide priority to anyone. Even within the time allocated for priority placement, FZY will still operate on a first-come first-serve basis and there may be other factors, i.e., ensuring a balanced camp with regards to gender, etc. or governmental regulations that may impact the acceptance process. This year, FZY sold out its maximum capacity of 546 young people in its Israel Tour programme in less than 5 days, so we recommend applying quickly for a better chance of guaranteeing a spot.

### [Will there be an information evening?](#)

Absolutely. As there may be changes to Ofek and Keshet based on government guidance over the coming months, FZY will be setting dates for an information evening closer to the time. We will share this date and other information about the meeting with parents/guardians in due course.

## [Keeping Ofek and Keshet Covid-19 Secure](#)

### [Are you allowed to operate Ofek and Keshet under current government guidance?](#)

As things stand as of the time of writing, yes. Should the government guidance for out-of-school settings change in the future, FZY will ensure to work according to these guidelines and regulations, and we will be guided by our number one priority: the health, safety and welfare of our participants and staff.

### [What steps are FZY taking to ensure everyone's safety?](#)

The health, safety and welfare of our participants and staff is FZY's number one priority. Therefore, there are numerous steps that FZY are taking now and will take in the future to make sure camps will be Covid-secure. As the guidelines will likely change and be amended by the government before the start of camp, nearer the time FZY will send to families a full overview of how these camps will operate. FZY's latest version of its [Covid-19 Policies](#) can be accessed on FZY's website.

### [Will the participants be in social bubble?](#)

No, all participants will be able to freely mix with one another, however FZY will be encouraging participants to adopt social distancing where they can and maintain good hygiene routines where possible. FZY's current [Covid-19 policies](#) may change based on future updated government guidance.

### [Will participants need to wear a face mask?](#)

FZY recommends, but does not mandate, participants wear a face mask whilst in indoor settings unless eating, drinking, sleeping, or playing sport. Face masks must only be worn whilst at third-party venues if the facilitators require this. FZY's [Covid-19 policies](#) are subject to change.

### [What happens if a participant tests positive for Covid-19 whilst on Ofek / Keshet?](#)

FZY's policy is that anyone testing positive for Covid-19 needs to self-isolate for a minimum of 5 days. If this were to occur on Ofek / Keshet, FZY will require a parent/guardian to collect their child at the earliest opportunity so the isolation can happen at home and not on the site. During the interim period before the participant is collected from the camp, they will be isolated separately from the rest of the camp, either in a closed room or an outdoor area away from others. FZY will ensure that there are staff available for the entirety of this time and there will be access to an assigned medical professional and welfare lead.

### Will participants need to be vaccinated to be allowed onto Ofek / Kesher?

Vaccination from Covid-19 is not a requirement for participation in Ofek or Kesher. However, FZY recommends participants are vaccinated if eligible to lower the risks to them as per the [advice given by the NHS](#).

## Cancellation

### Will I get a refund if FZY cancels the programme before or during camp?

If it is not possible to operate Ofek or Kesher for legal, safety or other reasons, FZY will be forced to cancel. FZY will use its best endeavours to safeguard money paid to it to be able to offer as close to a full refund as possible should the Programme have to be cancelled by FZY. Read FZY's [cancellation policy](#) for details on cancellation.

### What happens if a participant gets Covid-19 and can't go on Ofek / Kesher?

If a participant tests positive before summer camp is due to leave and provided that the Participant provides FZY with a valid medical certificate or independent verification of this, then FZY shall refund the monies paid less an Administration Fee and any third party cancellation costs or charges incurred by FZY. Read FZY's [cancellation policy](#) for full details. FZY requires participants to take out travel insurance that covers cancellation and curtailment due to Covid-19.

### Do I need to take out my own insurance for Ofek / Kesher?

FZY requires the participant to have a suitable travel insurance policy in place. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to take out this personal travel insurance and to check whether cancellations or curtailments for reasons relating to Covid-19 will be covered.