



a guide for potential volunteers

2009-2010

get involved: children's work

our vision

At Grace Church we want to include children of all ages in every part of church life. We believe they have a valuable and unique contribution to make! We work hard to provide action packed, fun-filled, God-centred sessions for our children each week... Sunday mornings definitely shouldn't feel like another day at school!

your opportunity

Thank you for taking time to consider pursuing our vision with us. As we grow as a church family, we need more people with a heart for God and a love for kids. We want to serve our children with the very best. Your energy, talents, time and faith have a valuable role to play! The opportunities to 'get involved' are varied enough to involve many different people with many different gifts. This guide is designed to help you decide where our opportunities and your gifts and interests can come together.

Julia Morrison
Children's work overseer



step one: find out more

how it works..

On a Sunday...

We run five different children's groups every Sunday morning. Our children are pre-registered as they arrive at grace church. They take an active part in our family worship time for an allotted period of 20 minutes and then greet friends and team leaders who escort them to their groups. They enjoy an hour of fast paced fun and activities designed specifically for their age and abilities. Parents collect their children after the speaker has finished and return to enjoy coffee and refreshments with their family.

Throughout the term..

To provide effective teaching and build relationships with our children most age groups ask volunteers to serve for two consecutive weeks at a time. Using this system, teams serve roughly two weeks on, six weeks off. This also enables volunteers to follow teaching themes in the adult meeting.

Throughout the year..

We want to train and support our workers in addition to providing the best level of fun and teaching for our children. To achieve this, we ask for a minimum commitment of 12 months from all of our volunteers. At the end of this period you have the opportunity to renew, or lay down, your responsibility.

To honour the efforts of our children's workers, we schedule specific holiday periods into our calendar. This includes two weeks at Christmas and Easter in addition to the whole month of August. To help our student volunteers, we ensure their responsibilities are restricted to term time.

step two: consider the age range that interests you



Stars is for children between 0 and 2 ½ years

What's our vision?

We aim to provide a safe, fun and secure environment for our little 'stars', where they can have their first experience of Church and want to come again. In turn our parents will feel happier and more able to enjoy church too!

What goes on?

We have lots of toys, games, stories and songs to keep our little ones happy. There is a healthy snack time and some weeks we have a special making activity.



Sparks is for children aged 2 ½ -5 years (nursery – year 1)

What's our vision?

We aim to 'spark off' a love for Jesus whilst having fun and making friends.

What goes on?

We have a two stage program. To begin, we have a short Bible story followed by a fun activity. We also do some energetic games and songs! After a break with healthy drinks and snacks our children can choose different free play activities including a construction zone, role play zone, story corner and small world.



Arrows is for children aged 5 to 10 (school years 1–5)

What's our vision?

At Arrows we encourage children to grow in their relationship with Jesus. We want the children to be active in the church and to prepare them to be sent out to do whatever God is calling them to – to be *Arrows* going for God.

What goes on?

Arrows is designed to be fun and energetic, with fast paced teaching and activities.

In a session we:

- Play games
- Worship together (with actions and dancing)
- Learn from the bible in lots of different ways including stories, drama, object lessons and magic tricks!



Engage is for anyone in school years 6-7 and Detonate is for people in school years 8-10

What is our vision?

We want our young people to be armed with the Gospel and have the power of the Spirit in their lives. Engage will focus on ensuring the young people have a firm foundation in the gospel. Detonate will focus on having God's power in day to day life so that our Young People are equipped to fight the challenges that are before them.

What goes on in Engage and Detonate?

Each week we will provide a fun and God centred session to challenge and equip the young people. Engage and Detonate meet together to worship God. The group then multiplies into two groups. The different groups look at different topics based on different areas of the Bible, Jesus, what it is to be a Christian, tough questions that get asked, applying the Bible to relevant topics that a teenager faces



Support worker:

This person works alongside a small number of children and directing them in different activities. This person will follow the direction of the session leader and assist where necessary.

Session Leader:

This person is responsible for the management of workers and children throughout the session. They pre-prepare any structured activities, organise resources and become the main contact point for parents.



Support worker:

This person works alongside a small number of children and directs them in different activities. This person will follow the direction of the session leader and assist where necessary.

Teacher:

This person pre-prepares a teaching activity, usually an inter-active story, from our teaching material. They deliver this to the group, usually around 8-10 children. When they are not teaching they act as a support worker.

Session leader:

This person pre-prepares an outline for the session and liaises with team members in the teaching role. They manage workers and children throughout the session and implement the discipline policy where necessary. They are the main contact point for parents and are responsible for dealing with issues

**Support worker:**

This person works alongside a small number of children and directs them in different activities. Their primary role is to build relationships with the children and keep them engaged in the session. This person will follow the direction of the session leader and assist where necessary.

Teacher:

This person pre-prepares teaching activities, typically three, from the teaching material. These last roughly five minutes and can include a game, a story, an object lesson or a short praise time. They deliver this to the group of 10 to 15 children. When they are not teaching they act as a support worker.

Session Leader:

This person pre-prepares an outline for the session and liaises with team members in the teaching role. They manage workers and children throughout the session and implement the discipline policy where necessary. They are the main contact point for parents and are responsible for dealing with issues that arise or informing the team leader.



Support worker:

This person works alongside a small number of children and directs them in different activities. Their primary role is to build relationships with the children and keep them engaged in the session. This person will follow the direction of the session leader and assist where necessary.

Teacher:

This person pre-prepares a teaching activity, typically a game, discussion or Bible study, on a given topic. They deliver this to the group of around 10 to 15 children. When they are not teaching they act as a support worker.

Session Leader:

This person pre-prepares an outline for the session and liaises with team members in the teaching role. They manage workers and children throughout the session and implement the discipline policy where necessary. They are the main contact point for parents and are responsible for dealing with issues that arise or informing the team leader.

In addition to these responsibilities, Children's workers are expected to attend team meetings and training evenings. These meetings are designed to support and equip you in your role. These typically occur once or twice a term.

step four: see it in action

Once you have narrowed your interest to an age range or potential role, we would like to arrange an opportunity for you to see this group, or groups, in action.

To arrange this, there are a number of ways to contact us

1. Approach somebody wearing a children's work T-shirt on a Sunday morning. They will direct you to a relevant team leader.
 2. Speak to your group leader. They will pass on your information or direct you to the relevant team leader.
 3. Contact the group leader directly via email which is printed below
- Follow the links and instruction on the Grace Church homepage.

In addition, you could take part in a tour around each age group. This takes place on a specified Sunday in the autumn term.

team leaders

Stars: Rosie Bull
[**rosie@bull.org.uk**](mailto:rosie@bull.org.uk)

Sparks: Helen Suffield
[**hsuffield@googlemail.com**](mailto:hsuffield@googlemail.com)

Arrows: Chris Key
[**ck@cksiteoftreats.co.uk**](mailto:ck@cksiteoftreats.co.uk)

Engage and Detonate:

step five: application process

Once you have had opportunity to confirm your interest and discuss your potential involvement with a team leader, we will begin the application process.

We do not require prior experience or qualifications to serve in Children's work. We believe in 'on the job' training! However, we take the responsibility and safety of children in our care very seriously. As a church we must conform to government legislation for child protection and conduct a number of external checks.

- You will receive an application form to complete which helps us to document any relevant experience and check your suitability with referees.
- You will also receive a copy of our Child protection form to read and sign. At this stage our Child Protection officer will liaise with you to begin the external checking procedure.
- If you are under the age of 16 we require additional parental consent forms to be signed and completed.

Placements will be made according to your qualification for ministry, your interests and currently available positions.

questions

If you have any further questions relating to our Children's work groups or our application procedure please contact

step six: training

Once the application process is complete, your team leader will work with you to train and support you in your role.