

Early Years, Children and Families Worker

Aim to advance the Gospel mission of the Good Shepherd Mission (GSM) fellowship by enabling volunteer teams and connecting with mission partners to evangelise and disciple local children (early years to year 6) and their families.

Gospel Mission

Bearing witness to the strategic advance of God's Kingdom in the local neighbourhood and beyond. Taking the primary role in making the Gospel of Jesus Christ known to local children and their families by creating environments of holistic nurturing and growth in discipleship. A focus will be placed on families who are socially vulnerable and have multiple complex needs.

Enabling Volunteer Teams

Recruiting, developing and coordinating teams of committed volunteers to effectively manage projects, run programmes and build relationships with children and their families.

Enabling volunteers to adopt an approach to mission that meets the holistic needs of children and families in a manner that bears witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Connecting with Mission Partners

Taking the primary role (where necessary and appropriate) to engage in networks and undertake collaborative working alongside other practitioners in the same field of mission.

Specific Functions and Tasks

Programmes and Activities

Early Years & Families – Taking the primary role to cultivate a volunteer/mission partner team to run a weekly outreach project for parents family carers and their preschool children. This includes recruiting, and discipling GSM and other local Christian volunteers who are gifted and called to serve in this field of ministry. This also includes establishing, maintaining and developing relationships with other local ministry practitioners in the field. In the first 12-18 months, and as needed thereafter, this will include playing a primary role in delivering Tuesday daytime sessions based at the GSM.

Thursday Club – Playing the primary role in delivering the programme of activities at Thursday Club, an open evangelistic Years 3-6 children's outreach project based at the GSM. This includes recruiting, managing and discipling GSM and local Christian volunteers who are gifted and called to serve in this field of ministry. Ensuring that the club is open to both churched and unchurched children. There will be a focus on children coming from a family background of vulnerability and complex needs.

Detached and Schools Work – Playing the primary role in cultivating volunteers who nurture relationships with children and families outside the GSM building who are connected to Early Years & Families and Thursday Club. Collaborating with mission partners to facilitate Christian based assemblies at local primary schools.

Sunday Morning Primary Age Provision – Working with church leadership to provide oversight and practical support to the team leaders of the children's groups on Sunday mornings. This includes recruiting, managing and equipping committed volunteers who will provide gospel-based activities and learning for the GSM children present on Sundays, both in age-appropriate groups and in all-age settings.

Holiday Residentials – Coordinating with mission partner and volunteer leaders to aid Year 3-6 children connected to the GSM to attend Christian based summer holidays.

Pastoral Support of Children, Families, and Volunteer Leaders

Discipleship of Children and Families – Attentive to pastoral needs of children and their families, paying particular attention to situations which need input or follow-up. This includes working in coordination with church leadership to ensure an overall environment of safety in which children can grow in discipleship while providing sufficient, responsive pastoral care to children and families.

Discipleship of Volunteers – Attentive to the needs of volunteer teams and their leaders, paying particular attention to pastoral situations which need input or follow-up. This includes ensuring that volunteers are adequately inducted and trained, that they're able to serve in alignment with GSM statement of faith, vision and values, and that volunteers are appreciated.

Ongoing Prayer for Early Years and Children's Work – Praying consistently for the children and families who access GSM children ministries. This includes actively and appropriately making prayer needs known within the wider fellowship while exercising spiritual leadership in calling volunteers, parents, and the church to prayer.

Communicating & Coordinating in Alignment with the GSM Mission

Staff Team Responsibilities – Participating as part of a larger team engaged in gospel outreach as part of the GSM. This includes attendance in weekly staff team meetings, line management, and liaising with other staff team members as needed in order to fulfill both the priorities of this role and the larger GSM vision.

Volunteer Team Coordination – Gathering volunteer teams and/or volunteer team leaders at regular intervals to pray, plan and prepare for the upcoming term's activities. This includes checking in on how clubs and groups are going, reviewing policies and procedures, and equipping/training towards larger vision.

Leadership Team Links – Reporting back to the GSM Leadership Team on a consistent basis via regular meetings with the Team. Working in close coordination with the Evangelism and Discipleship Pastor.

Qualifications for the Role

- Demonstrated ability to talk about Jesus Christ and His saving works with both children and adults.
- Demonstrated ability to lead Bible teaching/study and upfront preaching to children and adults.
- Agreement with the GSM statement of faith and willingness to operate within our stated vision and values.
- Welcoming, friendly and approachable.- Proficient knowledge of current safeguarding standards and practices.
- Strict adherence to a high level of safeguarding culture throughout all GSM activities.
- People management skills including recruitment and management of volunteers, sensitivity to parents as well as group leaders, and managing expectations.
- Willingness and capacity to visit families.
- Networking abilities including linking with other local agencies eg schools, health and well being professionals/ groups.
- Administrative skills including verbal and written communication skills.
- Familiarity with primary/early years curriculum and experience running an early years and/or children's club either at GSM or elsewhere.
- Available on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Hours and Pay

Hours and pay: This is written as a part-time (24 hour) role paying £16,850 per annum. However, applications suggesting alternative hourly arrangements including full time (36 hours) based on other work and life circumstances are welcomed.