

Job Description and Person Specification

Children and Families Worker

Job Title	Children and Families Worker
Location	Finaghy Methodist Church, Belfast
Contract	Full Time, (Permanent)
	36 hours per week
Salary	£24,925 - £26,171 per annum depending on experience.
Hours of work	36 hours per week to include evenings and weekends. Working hours to be agreed in advance.
Expenses	All reasonable expenses will be reimbursed. These must be agreed with the line manager in advance.
Holiday Entitlement	28 days annual leave entitlement (pro rata) inclusive of bank and public holidays.
References & Vetting	Appointment will be subject to satisfactory Access NI Vetting and references.

Probationary period subject to the satisfactory completion of a six-month probationary period

Completed Applications

Email: hr@irishmethodist.org

No later than **May 29th, 2024**

Candidates will be required to be a committed Christian, confirming agreement with the Statement of Faith of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Purpose and Objectives

- To provide pastoral care for children and their families within the Church context
- To help children grow as followers of Jesus
- To build relationships and develop new initiatives that engage and serve the surrounding community, providing opportunities for individuals to be introduced to Jesus and faith.
- To help shape the life and worship at Finaghy Methodist in a way that is attractive to this age group and to empower them to get involved in the Church

Main Responsibilities

- Required to be a Christian and to work and communicate with respect to Methodist Belief
- To lead with a missional mindset and be part of the team that plans and leads outreach events.
- Spend time with the children with a particular focus on the age range 4 to 11, building relationships, supporting, encouraging and developing their discipleship
- Be involved in the worship life of the congregation: regularly attending Fundays (Parent & Toddlers), planning, preparation and delivery of Sunday worship, Messy Church, Connect (Sunday School) and Wolfpack (boys club).
- Be active in supporting existing weekly children's work.
- Establish links with the families of children involved in Church activities.
- Provide opportunities for children to encounter Jesus
- Discover ways for the Church to further engage in the community.
- Be prepared to work with older children/teenagers as the need arises.
- To connect with local schools and look for ways the Church can support, engage with and encourage them
- Work alongside other local Churches to plan events such as Crossroads (SUNI)
- Get involved in special events, e.g. Soul Mates (IMYC) etc.
- Be a member of the Youth and Children's Working Group
- Liaise with the Child Protection Officer as required
- Encourage and support the volunteers working in our children's organisations
- Connecting with the community through Social Media
- This job description will be subject to review in the light of the evolving needs of Finaghy Methodist Church and is not intended to be rigid and definitive but should be regarded as guidelines within which the individual works. There may be other duties determined by the management from time to time.

Management

The Children and Families Worker will have a line manager who will monitor and evaluate his/her progress on a regular basis. There will also be a small group who will mentor and support the successful applicant. The Children and Families Worker will also be expected to participate in training as required by the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Applicants must

Be willing to work irregular hours including evenings and weekends. The post is subject to an Enhanced Access NI disclosure.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<p>5 GCSE's (or equivalent) at grade C or above.</p> <p>A nationally recognised qualification appropriate to the role.</p>	<p>Third level education with a qualification relevant to the role.</p>
Experience	<p>Minimum of two years' experience in children's ministry in a Christian faith-based setting (paid or voluntary).</p> <p>Experience and understanding of issues facing children.</p> <p>Experience of working with and leading volunteers.</p> <p>Experience of communicating the Bible to children and young people.</p> <p>Experience of innovation/fresh initiatives in children's ministry and mission.</p>	<p>Experience of offering pastoral care.</p>
Skills & Knowledge	<p>Ability and commitment to build appropriate and healthy relationships with families and children.</p> <p>Ability to work unsupervised and on own initiative.</p> <p>Ability to work as part of a team.</p> <p>Ability to lead a team.</p> <p>A team builder who can recruit, train, and manage volunteers.</p> <p>Ability to initiate conversation with others.</p>	<p>Driving licence and access to a car.</p> <p>Understanding of safeguarding and Child Protection procedures.</p> <p>Abilities in music, sport, art or drama.</p>

	<p>Excellent communication skills (online, oral and written).</p> <p>Excellent organisational skills.</p> <p>Understanding of safeguarding and Child Protection procedures.</p> <p>Basic computer skills to aid record keeping and experience of using PowerPoint.</p> <p>Excellent pastoral skills.</p>	
<p>Personal/ Character</p>	<p>Demonstration of faith in Jesus, including willingness and ability to communicate your own story of your faith journey.</p> <p>Active participant in the life a Christian church or community.</p> <p>Commitment to the Statement of Faith of the Methodist Church in Ireland.</p>	

No applicant will be shortlisted for interview unless the application form clearly demonstrates that they meet all the essential criteria. Finaghy Methodist Church reserves the right to shortlist applicants for interview based on the essential criteria or on the essential and desirable criteria.

It is a requirement that the successful candidate agrees to the following

The Methodist Church in Ireland Statement of Faith

I Believe...

The Methodist Church as part of the worldwide church shares those core beliefs passed down from the time of the Apostles. Those beliefs are founded on the Bible and are summed up in the creeds, which

are regularly used in Christian services of all denominations. The word “creed” comes from the Latin “credo” meaning “I believe.” The two better-known creeds are the 4th century Nicene Creed and this,

the simpler Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.