

Experience Easter - notes for the team

First of all, a very big thank you for offering to help.

We hope you will find your efforts both enjoyable and rewarding.

Experience Easter - an outline:

The day is split into three sessions. Each lasts 90 minutes, 9:15-10:45; 11:00-12:30; 1:15-2:45

Maximum total per session this year is 60 children.

At each session, children are split into six groups, with up to 10 per workshop.

Groups are pre-arranged by staff, to avoid problems.

Each group is accompanied by someone from the school.

Welcome:

- groups enter the building through the main door & check in with steward
- coats are left in welcome area
- pupils organised by teachers into pre-arranged groups
- the children come into screened area of church in their groups

Introduction:

- "stilling" by RP
- The Easter Story - RP
- The children leave in their groups, to different workshops around the church

Workshops:

- Six 8-minute workshops
- Rain-stick signals storytellers to finish workshops
- Groups rotate anti-clockwise

Conclusion:

- children group in centre of church
- RP leads discussion & song
- Stewards give staff their teacher's pack

Leaving:

- through centre double doors
- stewards help distribute coats

Key points:

We are aiming to keep things as calm and quiet as possible

- ❖ The stewards have an important role here, in settling groups & establishing order as they enter the building
- ❖ Wherever possible, speak slowly & calmly - requests, rather than instructions
- ❖ Clear instructions to children & adults will help avoid confusion (especially in tasks & as groups move on)
- ❖ Remember that voices echo round
 - loud asides by staff outside workshops will distract children & spoil the atmosphere
- ❖ Please minimise all movement while stories are going on.

Each group will be accompanied by an adult,

who is your first point of reference for child-centred problems:

- ❖ Assertive discipline should primarily be in the hands of school staff.
 - don't be afraid to ask them to intervene, before you're struggling
- ❖ Restless individuals can be invited to go to the Labyrinth or Welcome Area (where a CRB'd steward can work with them)
- ❖ Any individuals who become upset can be referred into the vestry (with accompanying adult and/or CRB'd steward)

Child safety

- There should be no need for anyone to be alone with the children
- Rosemary will have a list of CRB checked people to call on in an emergency
- Please try to keep children away from stacked chairs, screens and dangling fabrics.

Roles

Stewards:

- ❖ **You have the important role of keeping everything running smoothly!**
 - since timing is very tight, efficiency is crucial - please check this carefully & ask if in doubt
- ❖ **You are the only people free to keep an overview**
 - watch out for storytellers needing help - eg jugs refilling
 - refer issues to Rosemary

Meeting & greeting - a warm welcome

- Groups should arrive for 9:15; 11:00 & 1:15 - please be ready earlier
- look out for groups & ensure buses use the reserved parking
- we will be using the main (front) door into church for in & the side door for out
- check the groups in - school, numbers & let Rosemary know of significant changes
- coats & bags can be left in the welcome area
- Ask staff to divide children into their groups in the welcome area & then sit them down.
- Alert the storytellers to be ready

Quiet entry into church

- Calmly hush the children before they go through - Rosemary will do this, if free
- Entry will be through the single (south aisle) door
- they need to sit one line per group inside the church, facing north
- help direct them towards the workshops at the end of the starting story

Timing the workshops

- Read through the script, so you can identify key points in each of the workshops
- Keep an eye on how each workshop is progressing, flagging timings up if needs be.
- Use the rain-stick to mark every 8-minute change-over. Stand on the labyrinth & rotate anti-clockwise.
- Count the workshop sessions - after the sixth, help usher the children into the middle.

Farewell

- Give out teacher's packs (one per 30 kids) during singing
- Help distribute coats in the Welcome Area
- Guide groups out through the side door - give a warm farewell

Storytellers:

- ❖ **Your workshop scripts are in the pack. Please read this very carefully.**
- ❖ **Approach this as a mentor/friend, not as a teacher/instructor**
- ❖ **Keep yourself in the background - let the story speak for itself!**
- ❖ **Be sensitive to the emotional content & avoid asking the children to open up in public.**

Timing is very tight

- Please think out logistics of handing out materials etc. before you arrive
- Be in place before the children leave their introductory story
- Keep as closely as possible to the script (the same phrases are used elsewhere & timing is tight)
- Accept questions, but don't be tempted to go into lengthy detail on theology etc.
 - it's very easy to confuse, by giving children more detail than they need!
- Keep Q & A in hand
 - avoid "interesting but irrelevant" discussions from individuals that will lose others
- Listen out for the changeover sound!
- Let RP or a steward know ASAP if you are having real timing problems
 - there is some scope to use the labyrinth as an "overflow valve" for groups following on
- If you over-run such that children feel they aren't getting their "full whammy",
 - remind them of the Saturday morning session, 10:00-12:00
- If children leave your workshop with something they've made,
 - get it safely stowed away as they go - use pockets or accompanying adults.