

*A worshipping, growing and transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community*

## CHILDREN'S WORKER

### PLACES PROJECT

Employer:	Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance (MDBF)
Salary:	£28,111 - £32,436 per annum (Full Time)
Hours of work:	Full time - 35 hours per week (Term Time Only + 5 days option available)
Contract:	Fixed Term to 31/12/2028
Reporting to:	Places Project Children and Families Lead
Normal place of work:	Remote working in primary schools and parishes within Bolton Deanery.

### Purpose

The Places Project aims to create places and pathways for children, young people and their families to experience, explore and follow the way of Jesus.

We do this by:

**Pioneering:** Reimagining discipleship in the Bolton context, inspiring others about the opportunities for spiritual growth and acting as a catalyst to launch new initiatives.

**Discipleship pathways:** Building strong partnerships with schools and parishes to create discipleship pathways, encouraging more children, young people and their family members to go on a discipleship journey.

**Sustainability:** Equipping school volunteers, parish volunteers and young people to lead.

The project works with 30 Church of England primary schools, 3 Church of England secondary schools and 33 parishes in Bolton Deanery, as well as supporting parishes with links to community schools.

The Children's Worker will work alongside parish teams and primary schools, in an identified cohort of schools and parishes in Bolton Deanery, in order to develop Christian discipleship pathways for children (0 – 11 years old) and their families.

The Children's Worker will focus on transition years, from early years provision into school, and from primary school into Church of England secondary academy, in order to sustain and nurture the Christian discipleship of those children and their families.

## **Background information**

For more information about the Places Project, see our project video from phase one (originally called the Children Changing Places Project):

[Children Changing Places | Archbishops' Council | Diocese of Manchester - YouTube](#)

The Diocese of Manchester is the Church of England in Bolton, Bury, Leigh, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, and parts of Rossendale, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford. To find out more about the unique make-up of the diocese and its diverse activities, visit the website: [www.manchester.anglican.org](http://www.manchester.anglican.org)

## **Accountability & Key Relationships**

The post is line managed by the Children and Families Lead.

The Children's Worker will work closely with the Children & Families Lead and other members of the Places Project Team: Families Worker (Early Years), Families Worker (Primary), Youth Work Lead, Youth Ministry Pioneer, Chaplaincy Assistants, Shades Lead, Shades Worker, Youth Worker (Digital) and Operations Co-ordinator.

The Children's Worker will become quickly familiar with the Area Dean, local clergy and head teachers of identified CE and community primary schools, CE academy and associated parishes and mission communities.

The Children's Worker will receive professional advice from the Diocesan Children's Officer, Diocesan Youth Officer and the Man Dio Growing Faith Early Years Adviser. The Children's Worker will be a member of the wider Diocesan team.

## **Key Tasks**

- **To develop Christian discipleship pathways in the contexts of schools, parishes and families.**
- **To work alongside school leaders and Places Project colleagues to:**
  - Create a discipleship pathway for individual pupils entering Reception class, particularly if rooted in CE Toddler Groups, and facilitate that discipleship pathway throughout primary years.
  - Promote, and assist in growing Wiggle Worship in identified schools and parishes.
  - Initiate and establish new opportunities for pupils to participate in, and develop leadership, in groups exploring the Christian faith.
  - Deliver a programme of transition activities for Year 6 children, working alongside School Chaplains and Chaplaincy Assistants to secure a 'safe landing' for the children who move into Year 7 in a CE Secondary school (Bishop Fraser Trust).
- **To work alongside clergy and parish teams to:**
  - Explore new ways of offering worship and discipleship opportunities for primary school age children and their families.

- Encourage Year 5/6 pupils to engage with Christian youth groups in parishes as they transition from children's groups, in collaboration with members of the Youth Team.
- Working alongside the Diocesan Children's Officer, encourage parish congregations by promoting the value of volunteering in children's ministry. Support church members to take positive steps towards volunteering roles.

The post-holder will have experience of working with children, young people and/or families. They will be creative and able to lead and support activities in schools and parishes. They will be excellent communicators with good interpersonal skills. They will be able to build and maintain effective working relationships and have a working understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures.

## Person Specification

**Key:** (AF) Application Form; (I) Interview

	Essential requirements	Desirable requirements	Method of assessment
<b>Qualifications</b>			
A Levels or equivalent	E		AF
Other relevant qualifications		D	AF
<b>Experience</b>			
Experience of working with children	E		AF/I
Working or volunteering in a church context	E		AF/I
Ability to use creativity in engaging with others around the Christian faith	E		AF/I
Experience of working in/alongside schools		D	AF/I
Experience of leading worship or discipleship activities for children		D	AF/I
<b>Knowledge and skills</b>			
Good interpersonal and listening skills	E		AF/I
Good written and verbal communication skills	E		AF/I
Able to build and maintain working relationships with others	E		AF/I
A working understanding of child safeguarding principles and practices	E		AF/I
An appreciation of the diverse communities in the Diocese and a sensitivity to those of other faiths and beliefs	E		AF/I
At ease with the aims, values and diversity of the Church of England	E		AF/I
Ability to work effectively as part of a team	E		AF/I
Ability to work independently and proactively to develop ministry opportunities		D	AF/I
<b>Personal Qualities</b>			
A practising Christian	E		AF/I
Ability to be a positive Christian role model to others	E		AF/I

Willingness to learn and to develop new approaches, as well as sharing learning and resources with others.	E		AF/I
<b>Work related Circumstances</b>			
Able to work flexibly with some evening and weekend work	E		AF/I
Willingness to travel (car not essential)	E		AF/I

**There is an Occupational Requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian, in accordance with Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010.**

## **Summary of Terms & Conditions of Employment**

Employer	Manchester Diocesan Board of Finance (MDBF)
Line Manager	Places Project Children and Families Lead
Probation	Appointments subject to a 6-month probationary period
Location	The post is based in schools and parishes in Bolton Deanery
Hours	The role is full time - 35 hours per week (Term Time Only + 5 days option available)
Salary	Diocesan pay scale - £28,111 - £32,436 per annum (Full Time)
Contract	Fixed Term to 31/12/2028
Pension	Auto-enrolment into the Church Workers Pension Fund-Pension Builder Classic product
Annual Leave:	22 days' entitlement for the first 12 months of employment, rising to 25 days annual leave thereafter, in addition to bank holidays and 3 church days

**Closing Date:** 12 noon on Tuesday 26 August 2025

**Interviews:** Wednesday 3 September 2025, at St Andrews Church Over Hulton, Crescent Avenue, Bolton BL5 1EN

**The post will be offered to the successful candidate subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service check, evidence of the right to work in the UK and satisfactory references.**