

## Lamplighter (5s to 9s)

At Lighthouse children are split into age groups, within the age group they are in Lighthouses. Each Lighthouse (a group of between 10-13 children) is run by a Lighthouse Keeper with one, or more, younger helpers aged 12-18 called Lamplighters (LL). There will normally be two or three Lamplighters with every group of children. Lamplighters, and their Lighthouse Keepers, are at the heart of Lighthouse. When you registered you were given the opportunity to state which age group(s) you would like to be with. We try to give you your preference, but this is not always possible.

Please note, only parents who are volunteers can bring children aged 11 and under on to the Lighthouse site. You cannot bring your siblings who are coming to Lighthouse. They must be brought to the site at their allocated time (10am or slightly after).

You don't have to be a practising Christian but you need to recognise that this is a Christian activity week and you must accept the ethos of the week and be in agreement with our 'Believe, Belong, Behave' policy which is included in the volunteer handbook.

Your job is to care for the children in your Lighthouse throughout the week. This entails:

- Meeting them at Registration and taking them to their groups
- Going with them to the various activities
- Helping and joining in with the various activities
- Helping them to enjoy themselves, and being attentive to their welfare
- Eating with them at lunch
- Providing drinks as necessary
- Taking groups to the toilet

Children, especially younger ones, are very affectionate and are likely to want to hold your hand when moving around the site and may want to sit on your lap during some of the sessions. Whilst we don't want to keep children at arm's length, we must be sensitive and ensure they, and you, are safe. So, whilst holding hands with a child that wants to is fine, you must not carry them around the site, or allow them to carry each other! Please make sure that you do not show favouritism to a child, or small group of children by letting them always sit next to you. It is better not to let any child sit on your lap for this reason.

You should ensure you are familiar with the timetable for your age group and agree, with your Lighthouse Keeper, when you can take two short breaks during the day. A break should be 15-minute maximum. There is a refreshment area for helpers with free hot and cold drinks. This is the only time /place where your mobile phone is allowed to be out and used. At all other times, it should be on silent, and away. You, and your LHK should eat with the children at lunch time and help look after them throughout the lunch break. If you need to leave the group at any time, make sure that someone knows where you have gone.

You must attend your age group briefing each morning which will take place shortly after 9am. This is followed by a session for all helpers called Refuel. During this time any important notices will be given out, the story for the day may be introduced for helpers and there will be worship and prayers.

During the day you should be prepared to help and join in with all the activities (drama, games, Discovery, craft) under the direction of the team leaders. There are notes on the various activities in the Lighthouse handbook.

LHKs and LLs interact with their group in the Discovery sessions using materials and activities planned by the Age Group Teacher to reinforce the teaching theme; more details about these sessions are provided below. This is a good opportunity to get to know the children and build relationships with them.

**Discovery sessions** are led by an Age Group Teacher but require input from the Lighthouse Keepers and Lamplighters. Please make sure you know the material for the day so that you can help the children relate the story to their own life. The afternoon Discovery session is a time for the daily teaching theme to be reinforced through a variety of activities. It is a time when relationships can be built within the Lighthouse. It's a good opportunity to talk with the children about the theme.

Each child has a workbook linked to the Lighthouse theme and daily message to use before Mainstage and during the Lighthouse sessions, which contains activity materials appropriate to the child's age.

**At the end of the day** you, and your Lighthouse Keeper, are responsible for looking after the children in your group until they have been collected. Different age groups will leave at different times from the registration area, but children whose parent/carer is helping will remain in their age group area until collected. You may be asked to look after these children whilst the LHK takes the others to the registration area. You should be prepared to stay until 4pm if needed.

Even if you aren't needed for your Lighthouse children, please remember that no helpers will be signed out whilst we are releasing the children (unless by prior arrangement with the Chairman or with the registration team for a very good reason!). It is too busy to leave during this time and it threatens the safety of the children. Once all children have been collected, all helpers may depart.

Occasionally issues might arise within your Lighthouse, for example there may be a child or a fellow lamplighter whom you find difficult to interact with. If you are unhappy for any reason, please talk to your Lighthouse Keeper in a quiet moment. Alternatively, your Age Group Leader is there for you to talk to.