

GUIDANCE FOR PLANNING A VISIT TO ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

SCHOOL

- Contact the Rector to confirm the date and timing of a proposed church visit (Tel: 01883 624125)
- Give a clear indication of the focus of the visit
- Give details of the age group and numbers of pupils and adults
- Indicate if there are pupils with special educational needs or disabilities that need to be catered for
- Ascertain arrangements for toilet facilities
- Discuss the roles of the teacher and church representative during the visit to All Saints'
- Reassure the Church that the school staff will be responsible for pupil behaviour during the visit
- Ask for artefacts to be made available that are relevant to the aim of the visit
- Bring a digital camera
- Before the visit ensure that all adults are briefed about their involvement in any group activity
- For teachers to be able to offer the best learning experiences for pupils, it is desirable to arrange a visit to the Church prior to the school visit
- Pupils should be prepared for a visit to any place of worship by discussing issues of respect and appropriate behaviour
- Schools should understand that All Saints' Church is part of the Warlingham, Chelsham and Farley Team Ministry. The Church has a commitment to ecumenism and works with the local Methodist Church and the Catholic Church of St. Ambrose.
- Pupils of all faiths are welcome at All Saints' Church and it is incumbent upon the school to prepare all pupils for a visit
- Schools are advised to that copies of:-
A Guide and Short History to All Saints' Church and
A Walk Through the Churchyard - are available from the Rector.

CHURCH

- Ensure the church is warm and welcoming!
- Be well briefed as to the purpose of the visit and the ages of the pupils
- Determine who is leading the visit and the roles of both the teacher and the church representative
- Be available as a resource if necessary
- Be aware that for some pupils this will be their first visit to a church and it therefore should be a positive experience for them
- Know how to respond to answers to questions that to you may seem wrong. An attempted answer is a positive response! Respond sensitively with an encouragement to rethink the answer and you will probably get a more appropriate response!
- Make sure the necessary artefacts are available in the right places according to the script. Children learn a lot by handling things but 'precious' items should be introduced as such.
- Share your knowledge and enthusiasm for the building and if appropriate indicate that you are a worshipping member at All Saints' - from which additional questions might evolve!
- Encourage schools to share any follow-up work with the church. Suggest that a display of photographs and subsequent work done in school will enhance community links!