

Appendix I:
Ideas to meet each strand

ENHANCING PRAYER AND WORSHIP

The aim is to ensure the existence of a real partnership in prayer and worship between the church and school.

IDEAS FOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL:

- Include the school community regularly in public intercession.
- Establish a prayer support group for the school.
- Involve children and adults in planning collective worship and special church services, both in church and in school.
- Hold a regular prayer event or group in school for governors, parents, teachers, clergy and teachers to join together.
- Include relevant school news, personnel and needs in the local church prayer calendar.
- Plan joint worship occasions between church and school to be held in both places.
- Have prayers and notices for the school on the church noticeboard.
- Share prayer requests with one another and where appropriate align prayer focuses.
- Pray for the school chaplain. Post a photo of them on the church prayer/mission board and encourage the chaplain by letting them know that they are prayed for by the church.
- Establish a school Eucharist.
- Include the school in special services for mid-week festivals and patronal festival.
- Hold regular 'open' collective worship occasions in school, to which adults from the church are invited.
- Establish a joint church and school choir or music group.
- Invite children who are learning instruments to play them in the church for services or events.
- Encourage church musicians to support music in school and school worship.
- Establish a core of hymns, songs and liturgy that will be used in worship in both church and school.
- Use quality and up-to-date collective worship resources which are readily available online or in print and share with the church those which are being used.
- Establish 'Education Sunday' as a major opportunity for church and school to come together, using material circulated to parishes each year. The Headteacher may be invited to speak, preach or do a Q&A or 'This Time Tomorrow' style interview.
- Organise training jointly for worship leaders in church and school.
- Establish confirmation classes for those who wish to, on school premises, perhaps after school.
- Plan and organise a retreat or quiet reflection space for staff and / or pupils.
- Set up Prayer Spaces in Schools [Prayer Spaces In Schools](#)

DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS

The aim is to ensure that the church and school work together as often as possible to provide practical activities to underpin this partnership.

IDEAS FOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL:

- Run an After-School Club or Messy Church in school.
- Establish a holiday club or playscheme together.
- Find ways to integrate Sunday School or All-age Worship and school programmes.
- Share the church's world mission links with the school and vice versa.
- Run a joint church and school Christian Aid week with an educational, as well as fundraising dimension.
- Organise events jointly such as Christmas activities, toy/homeless charity collections or Foodbank or shoe-box appeals.
- Help create spaces for teaching staff and congregations to reflect theologically on the task of education.
- Provide a special morning coffee and snacks to the staff once a month or at the end of a school term.
- Plan an annual Church School Partnership Day on which church members visit and plan activities in school.
- Seek out ways of listening to children's perspectives of church and the Christian faith.
- Encourage a good flow of news through a school page in the parish magazine or church contribution to school newsletter.
- Work with the children at the school to provide an item for a church service, such as a drama or musical item.
- Think about opportunities for older students to serve through work experience at the church.
- Invite church members to bake or provide cakes or biscuits for the staff room. These are always welcome or could be for special occasions such as OFSTED visits, the end of terms or the feast day for the Saint associated with the school.
- Run a Christmas or Easter themed trail in the church or school for pupils, staff and parents to visit (books with these ideas are available).
- Include a standing agenda item on every PCC meeting about developing and deepening partnership with the school.
- Offer to support fundraising by running a stall at the church or school fete and providing people to help out at events.
- Have children 'follow' church members to learn what and why they do in their role as vicar, churchwarden, organist or other.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

The aim is for everyone involved to see ministry (service) to the school as a whole church responsibility, not just the job of the clergy.

IDEAS FOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL:

- Include the school in the parish Mission Statement and mission planning.
- Share with the church congregation the school vision and values, how these fit with the church mission and why all the community have responsibilities for prayer and service.
- Invite the headteacher, member of staff or governor to speak or briefly answer questions about their role in a service.
- Encourage people to become school governors, especially Foundation Governors, and make sure they know you value this lay ministry www.bristol.anglican.org/schoolgovernors/
- Ensure there is feedback from governors and a regular 'school' item on the PCC agenda.
- Co-opt the headteacher to the PCC (but don't expect them to come to every meeting!).
- Encourage church members to read the CE Vision for Education so they understand how transformative their input into school life can be.
- Encourage church members to engender a "culture of affirmation" of the work of the teachers in your local school.
- Recognise and support church members who are involved in school life wherever it is, as paid staff or volunteers, not just in the local school.
- Include learning about church schools in the parish teaching programme.
- Organise pastoral training and support for adults involved in school e.g. joint quiet morning, mentoring support.
- Nurture vocations to the teaching profession and affirm and support church members who are teachers.
- Organise or co-ordinate support for parents and "parenting". You might consider running a parenting course – see [Home - Care for the Family](#) for a range of resources.
- Liaise with the school over dates and planning of 'big events' (fêtes, fund-raising etc.) and perhaps include some joint events.
- Encourage church members to offer their time to the school to support things such as painting or listening to children read.
- Run projects about local issues of social and climate justice, such as Eco Award status, Food Banks, Christians Against Poverty, or homelessness, together in partnership.
- Encourage a Parent Teacher Association to become 'Friends of the School' so that it becomes open to the wider community and then encourage church members to join.
- Organise a bible study or Alpha course in the school building during school time.
- Read the 'How to...' guides on the Diocesan website which cover topics such as delivering high quality assemblies, creating great all-age worship and listening to the voice of children and young people, for further ideas and inspiration about how to support your local school.

SHARING RESOURCES

The aim is to enable children and staff to meet the living church community as well as see the church building and churchyard.

IDEAS FOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL:

- Invite a member of the church community to tell the story of their church in a school assembly.
- Ensure there are welcoming church members present in the church when children visit, perhaps simply doing routine tasks.
- Take the initiative in hosting a visit from a school.
- Ask church members to 'share their Christian story' in RE or collective worship.
- Devise, perhaps with school specialists, suitable resource boxes or worksheets for when school classes visit, emphasising the Christian journey as well as church features.
- Arrange class visits to the church to explore the symbolism and functionality of the building.
- Discuss together how the church buildings could be used creatively so that children feel welcome in their local church. Students could be involved in these discussions by making suggestions and contributing ideas.
- Make or find appropriate opportunities in the church diary to which children and their families may be sent special invitations, e.g. Christingle services or Education Sunday.
- Have regular displays of school children's work in church.
- Work with children to make an altar frontal, banners, vestments or flower displays for the church.
- Work together to organise a church based activity day for all the school community. Make it an ecumenical venture and include the whole community.
- Have a church stall at the school fete, or a school stall at the church fete.
- Offer to run a pre-bookable crèche for parents for important meetings such as parent's evenings or curriculum evenings.
- Support the school by funding the purchase of Bibles, prayer resources or books for religious education.

Appendix 2:
Exemplar evidence for each level of the Award

BRONZE AWARD

A new and emerging partnership in many areas.

A Church and School Partnership Award at this level will have, for example:

- Relationships are newly established and building a sense of shared vision and identity.
- There are members of the local worshipping community serving as Foundation Governors or Governors and there may be others serving on the PTA or equivalent.
- Clergy are invited in to school each term to lead Collective Worship.
- There are plans for the school to use the church buildings to celebrate a major festival (Christmas, Easter or Pentecost).
- The school is prayed for during Sunday worship services such as Education Sunday or the start of the new school year.
- The school sends notices about events and activities to the church and these are shared with the church congregation.
- The school has photos of clergy on the welcome notice board and on the website.
- There are reciprocal links on both school and church websites.
- Some church events are advertised and promoted through school communication with parents and children.
- Parents and children at the school are invited to special or occasional services at the church, such as Christingle, a crib service or Easter Day parade service.
- Planned future partnership opportunities.

SILVER AWARD

An established partnership, with mutually supportive activity.

A Church and School Partnership Award at this level will also have, for example:

- Relationships are established between the school leadership and members of the clergy and lay leaders at the church.
- Communication is regular and often, and clergy offer a supportive and pastoral role to staff.
- Regular conversations about governance and vision and the Christian mission of both the church and school in the community are shared and fruitful.
- Inspirational Collective Worship is delivered by the clergy and lay leaders of the church regularly and often and planned with school leaders.
- The church prays often for the whole school community both in Sunday worship and in small groups and all Governors meetings begin and end in prayer. The school is a standing item on the PCC agenda.
- There are shared community partnerships that benefit both the school and church through agencies such as CAP, The Children's Society, Christian Aid and other secular organisations and charitable partners.
- There is a regular and dynamic flow of news shared between the church and the school and shared events and activities are communicated to the wider community.
- The church space is used for the benefit of the school community including after-school and school holiday events and activities such as homework clubs, confirmation or baptism classes, and holiday clubs.
- The school is used for ministry events such as Messy Church.

- The church buildings are used to support RE lessons and contributes to the spiritual development of pupils.
- Commitments to evaluate and review ongoing partnership activities and planned future events in response to local need and appetite.

GOLD AWARD

Deeply rooted, impactful commitments between church, school and community with vibrant plans for growth and sustainability.

In addition, a Church and School Partnership Award at this level will have, for example:

- Shared Christian mission and / or vision statement that is lived-out good news for the whole community, not simply the church and / or the school.
- The church and school share an unembarrassed and celebratory Anglican foundation and identity.
- The culture of the school is affirmed by the church community and many people volunteer time and resources, not just the clergy and paid leaders.
- The church community provides regular opportunities that enable the spiritual flourishing of children and adults at the school, and many others in the wider community such as through Alpha, quiet or retreat days, social justice issues.
- Local and overseas mission partners are shared with and visit the school and children are courageous advocates for racial, social and environmental justice.
- Pupils look forward to and participate in worship activities at church during the week such as joining a midweek communion or hosting the older folk at school for events such as 'Tea and Talk'.
- The PCC set aside budget each year to support spiritual development and learning in RE.
- Children experience lively and engaging collective worship led by the church community both in school and at church at key points during the school year.
- The school and church work together to support vulnerable families in the community, whether they are members of the church or not.
- The church and school partner together to host Prayer Spaces or other activities that facilitate and encourage spiritual reflection for all adults and children including parents.
- Examples of children's work across the curriculum are shared in church and children are invited to share their learning in RE.
- Members of the church support the school in visits to the Cathedral or other places of worship.
- The school and church communities work together to support families through parenting courses and at key times of transition.