

Church & School Partnership Award

Guidance & Criteria



Church & School
Partnership Award

Rationale

Throughout this document and in the title of the award the word 'school' also relates to academy.

The Diocesan Board of Education encourages all their schools to regularly assess the joint work undertaken with the local church. The Church and School Partnership Award is a new award in our diocese. Several other dioceses, have implemented their own versions of the award. It is one way of recognising the exceptional work that churches and schools do together.

The process of applying for the award is outlined below. The application is designed to be completed by both the church and school representation.

Once awarded, the Award itself lasts for five years and will then need to be re-applied for, as there will be many changes and developments over this period.



At the end of Communion, the church family are encouraged to 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord' and this phrase acts as the 'golden thread' running throughout the award.

How are both church and school fulfilling this? How is the church family supporting the school family and vice versa in achieving this? What is the impact of this on the local community served by both school and church?



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1 Prayer and Worship life

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

How does the church support the school in its worship and prayer life?

How does the school support the church in its worship and prayer life?



BRONZE

Church and school seek prayer requests from one another and find time to pray for each other.

Church supports with the planning and leading of collective worship in school. Additional visits such as Open the Book have an impact within the school community.

Church and school regularly advertise services and events for each other, sharing as part of the community.



SILVER

There is a shared understanding of the importance of prayer.

Church and school are committed to praying for one another.

Church and school are committed to planning joint services for key festivals and times within the school and church year.

School have some involvement in wider church services and their contribution is valued by all.

Values for worship are shared across both school and church and deliberate reference is made within each service as to what one another is doing.

Through a shared understanding of worship both church and school support the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults.

School contributes to displays in church about prayer and worship and the church supports the school in their understanding of prayer.



GOLD

Prayer is a natural and important part of church and school. Prayers within church and school link and make use of opportunities to pray for one another and the local community.

Prayer is sustaining and transformational. It forms the heartbeat of a relationship held in love.

Worship is recognised as a priority to both church and school. There is a synergy between church and school worship, where there is a feeling that although separate, we all worship together at different times in different spaces. This includes the use of shared prayers (including collects) and liturgy. Church and school engage in each other's acts of worship which leads to transformational change in the local community.

Both church and school recognise spiritual development as a key aspect of flourishing. They share an understanding of spirituality, and this enables worship to be a rich experience providing opportunities for deep spiritual growth.

Church helps support and lead the pupil lead collective worship team (where appropriate). They support in planning, resourcing and equipping pupils and young people to effectively plan and lead acts of collective worship.

Joint Eucharists and confirmation classes may be held to support in the worshiping life of the community.



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2 Activities in Church and school life

The aim of this section is to ensure that the church and school, work meaningfully together to provide practical activities to underpin this partnership.

What activities are shared between the church and school?

What is the impact of these? How do you know?



BRONZE

Activities begin to build an understanding of community. Church and school understand the importance of working closely together.

Church and school share open invitations to activities individually run.

Activities are planned together which support the spiritual development of the church and school.



SILVER

Church and school have a shared understanding of the importance of and vision for collaboration.

There is communication between the Governing Body and the PCC to enable shared events and activities.

Where appropriate, members of the ministry team are invited to attend training at the school to enhance their understanding of Church Schools and develop working relationships e.g collective worship. Likewise, school staff may be invited to join training offered by the church. This may include, safeguarding training, first aid training or other appropriate sessions.



GOLD

Church and school together, are at the heart of the community. The links formed have a deep transformational impact on the whole community. Church and school are partners in the mission of the church.

Where appropriate, Foundation Gvs also sit on or have the opportunity to report to PCC.

Activities are not seen as 'the school's' or 'the church's' but rather 'ours'.

Church and school use their unique understanding of the community that they serve to plan and implement effective activities which enable the flourishing of all in the community.

Both church and school contribute to community events, jointly and individually.



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3 The School and Church buildings and outside spaces

The aim of this section is to enable children and staff to develop an understanding of the school and church buildings, their uses and historical context, as well as meeting the living church community.

How does the school use the church building and any outside space?

How does the church use the school building and outside space?

How does this sharing enhance the relationship between church and school?



BRONZE

School have access to the church for services and special events. School uses the church regularly for worship.

Church are able to use the school for Sunday services and other events such as fundraising.

Pupils have a positive relationship with the church and being in it feels natural.



SILVER

Church space is used inside and out to support the learning and spiritual development of pupils and adults within the school. This may include, spiritual trails, 'Experience' visits, for example.

A shared history of the church and school is celebrated during key times of the year.



GOLD

There is a sense of shared community space between the church and the school.

The school have their own space within the church that can be accessed for quiet reflection. Church space is used to display school prayers and work around spiritual development.

Imaginative use of space both in church and school enable deep partnerships to develop and has a transformational impact on the whole community.



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4 Service to the community

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

How does the leadership and congregation of the church and school work together in shared ministry for children and adults and in doing so serve others?



BRONZE

There is a recognition that both church and school have a part to play in the community.

Both lay and ordained members of the church participate in the church and school partnership.

Some activities held by church and/or school involve one another in service of the community.



SILVER

Church seeks to provide events and service that match the school's vision and have an impact on the local community.

Lay and ordained members actively seek ways to support the local community through the relationship with the school.

School looks to supporting church driven events, such as Lenten Lunches, where appropriate.

Church and school seek opportunities for collaborative projects to enhance the flourishing of the local community.



GOLD

There is a deeply held belief that church and school are one family which is integral to the local community.

Church and school are proactive in seeking opportunities to work on projects together which supports the flourishing of their community e.g parenting classes, debt management or Alpha etc.

Church and school work closely together to be agents for change in their local community.



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5 Overall impact

What impact do you believe the partnership between church and school has had on the overall life of both the church and the school?



BRONZE

The partnership is mutually beneficial.

Expertise from church and school is used to enhance the lives of pupils and adults.

Church and school are seen as safe places.

Although there is a commitment from school and church, it may be driven from one side more than the other.



SILVER

The partnership is mutually beneficial and there is a growing understanding of one community.

Church and school recognise the strengths and gifts in each other and utilise these for the good of the community.

Church and school are beginning to seek meaningful opportunities to enhance the relationship and the impact they have on the local community.



GOLD

There is a deeply held belief that church and school are one family and integral to the local community. This leads to deep, transformational flourishing of all in the community.

Church and school are partners in the mission of the church and are beacons of hope to their shared community.

Flourishing may lead to new worshipping communities.

The close working relationship is prioritised through the school development plan and Parish Mission Plans. Because of this, maintaining the relationship is a important aspect in any leadership succession planning. Maintaining the impact of flourishing.



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Evidence

Evidence may be sought from a variety of sources including, but not limited to:

- Minutes of governor's meetings
- Minutes of PCC meetings
- Minutes of Collective Worship Team
- Posts on church and school social media
- Photographs taken by church and school
- Displays
- Letters in parish magazines
- School newsletters
- Questionnaires from church and school
- Pages on websites
- School monitoring reports
- Letters from parishioners, parents or members of the community
- Leaflets/fliers for events held

Where evidence can be found electronically, such as on a website, it is acceptable to include a link in the application form rather than printing the information.



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Application process and accreditation

1. The Incumbent (or appropriate church representative), Headteacher and PCC should agree that the school and church apply for this award.
 - (i) PCC should discuss and look to consider applying for the award.
 - (ii) Governing Body agreement is required.
2. A Foundation Governor is nominated to act as link person who will co-ordinate the process with the PCC/Church and the school engaging others to assist.
e.g staff member of school, parent, PCC member/churchwarden, Reader, children.
3. When the group have completed the form and all the evidence is in place and with the agreement of the Incumbent and Headteacher, the application is completed and sent to Diocesan Education Team. Schools and Churches can either apply for a particular level of award (Gold, Silver, Bronze) or submit an application, allowing the level of award to be determined by the accreditation team.

Evidence will be required in support of each assessment question (photographs, magazine articles, children's work, etc). Ideas are contained in the appendix.
4. All applications will be reviewed by the Diocesan Director of Education and the Diocesan Education Adviser before being taken forward to the Church and School Partnership Award accreditation team.
5. The accreditation team, constituting of Diocesan Director of Education, Diocesan Education Adviser, a member of the Diocesan Board of Education, Bishop of Worcester and the Bishop of Dudley will review the application and evidence provided.
6. The accreditation team will meet six times per academic year. These dates will be published in advance. Applications for an award must be received no later than two weeks prior to the accreditation team meeting for it to be considered in that round of accreditations.
7. All applications for the Bronze and Silver award will be reviewed based on the written evidence that is supplied by the school and the church as part of the application process. As part of the accreditation process, a member or members of the accreditation team will visit any school apply for the Gold award in order to review the evidence and hold discussions between the school and church in relation to the impact of their relationship.
8. A letter from the Board of Education will be sent to the Church and School following acceptance from the Board of their submitted application.
9. If successful then arrangements are made for a presentation, usually in school by one of the bishops or one of the archdeacons.
10. The award lasts for five years from the date of receiving it. Should school and church wish to apply for a higher award within those five years, they will be able to apply to upgrade their award after 24 months of it being received.





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www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/partnership-award