



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Church & School Partnership Award

Application Pack



Church & School
Partnership Award

Church & School Partnership Award

APPLICATION FORM

Name of Church:

Contact name in Church:.....

Contact email::.....

Name of school:.....

Contact name in school:.....

Contact email::.....

Signed: **X**..... (Church contact)

Signed: **X**..... (School contact)

Please return all completed forms by email to: dhutchison@cofe-worcester.org.uk

or post to: Rev. Duncan Hutchison
Diocese of Worcester Education Team
16 Lowesmoor Wharf, Lowesmoor
Worcester WR1 2RS



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Application process and validation

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/church warden, 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 submit their application and evidence and the level of the award will be determined by the accreditation team, based on the evidence supplied..

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 application 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 Validation Team.
5. The Validation 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 Validation Team will meet 6 times per academic year. These dates will be published in advance. Applications for an award must be received no later than 2 weeks prior to the Validation Team meeting for it to be considered in that round of validations.
7. All applications 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 where evidence suggests that the Gold Award may be awarded. This visit is done in order to review the evidence and hold discussions between the school and church in relation to the impact of their relationship. A visit does not guarantee being awarded Gold, as the assessors must still satisfy themselves that the partnership meets the criteria.
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 5 years from the date of receiving it. Should school and church wish to apply for a higher award within those 5 years, they will be able to apply to upgrade their award after 24 months of it being received.



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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.

The sections of this form are likely to overlap, please do not be concerned if this happens.

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

1. Please give examples:

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

2. Please give examples:

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What next steps can you identify to develop this further?

3. Please describe:

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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?

1. Please give examples:

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

2. Please give examples:

What next steps can you identify to develop this further?

3. Please describe:



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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?

1. Please describe uses:

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

2. Please describe uses:

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

3. Please explain:

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What next steps can you identify to develop this further?

4. Please describe:

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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?

1. Please give examples:

How do the children have an effect on the life of the church, school and local community?

2. Please give examples:

What next steps can you identify to develop this further?

3. Please describe:



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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?

1. Please explain:

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What evidence do you have to support this?

2. Please give examples (e.g. last SIAMS views of parents and community):

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1 Prayer and Worship life

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

1. Include the school community regularly in public intercession.
2. Establish a prayer or support group for the school.
3. Involve children and adults in planning collective worship and special church services.
4. Hold a regular prayer event or group in school for governors, parents, teachers, clergy and teachers to join together.
5. Include relevant school news, personnel and needs in the local church prayer calendar.
6. Plan joint worship occasions between church and school to be held in both places.
7. Have prayers and notices for the school on the church noticeboard.
8. Share prayer requests with one another and where appropriate align prayer focuses.
9. 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.
10. Establish a school Eucharist.
11. Include the school in special services for mid-week festivals and patronal festival.
12. Hold regular 'open' collective worship occasions in school, to which adults from the church are invited.
13. Establish a joint church and school choir or music group.
14. Invite children who are learning instruments to play them in the church for services or events.
15. Encourage church musicians to support music in school and school worship.
16. Establish a core of hymns, songs and liturgy that will be used in worship in both church and school.
17. 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.
18. Establish 'Education Sunday' as a major opportunity for church and school to come together, using material circulated to parishes each year.
19. Organise training jointly for worship leaders in church and school.
20. Establish confirmation classes for those who wish to, on school premises, perhaps after school.



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2 Activities in Church and school life

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

1. Run an After-School Club or Messy Church in school.
2. Establish a holiday club or playscheme together.
3. Find ways to integrate Sunday School or All-age Worship and school programmes.
4. Share the church's world mission links with the school and vice versa.
5. Run a joint church and school Christian Aid week with an educational, as well as fundraising dimension.
6. Organise events jointly such as Christmas activities, toy/homeless charity collections or Foodbank or shoe-box appeals.
7. Help create spaces for teaching staff and congregations to reflect theologically on the task of education.
8. Provide a special morning coffee and snacks to the staff once a month or at the end of a school term.
9. Plan an annual Church School Partnership Day on which church members visit and plan activities in school.
10. Seek out ways of listening to children's perspectives of church and the Christian faith.
11. Encourage a good flow of news through a school page in the parish magazine or church contribution to school newsletter.
12. Work with the children at the school to provide an item for a church service, such as a drama or musical item.
13. Think about opportunities for older students to serve through work experience at the church.
14. Set up and run a temporary or permanent prayer space in school. Resources that enable churches to provide these to schools can be found at www.prayerspacesinschools.com
15. 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.
16. 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).
17. Include a standing agenda item on every PCC meeting about developing and deepening partnership with the school.
18. Offer to support fundraising by running a stall at the church or school fete and providing people to help out at events.
19. Have children 'follow' church members to learn what and why they do in their role as vicar, churchwarden, organist or other.



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3 The School and Church buildings and outside spaces

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

1. Invite a member of the church community to tell the story of their church in a school assembly.
2. Ensure there are welcoming church members present in the church when children visit, perhaps simply doing routine tasks.
3. Take the initiative in hosting a visit from a school.
4. Ask church members to 'share their Christian story' in RE or collective worship.
5. Devise, perhaps with school specialists, suitable resource boxes or worksheets for when school classes visit, emphasising the Christian journey as well as church features.
6. Arrange class visits to the church to explore the symbolism and functionality of the building.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Have regular displays of school children's work in church.
10. Work with children to make an altar frontal, banners, vestments or flower displays for the church.
11. Work together to organise a church based activity day for all the school community. Make it an ecumenical venture and include the whole community.
12. Have a church stall at the school fete, or a school stall at the church fete.
13. Offer to run a pre-bookable crèche for parents for important meetings such as parent's evenings or curriculum evenings.



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4 Service to 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

1. Include the school in the parish Mission Statement and mission planning.
2. 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.
3. Invite the headteacher, member of staff or governor to speak or briefly answer questions about their role in a service.
4. Encourage people to become school governors, especially Foundation Governors, and make sure they know you value this lay ministry www.bristol.anglican.org/schoolgovernors/
5. Ensure there is feedback from governors and a regular 'school' item on the PCC agenda.
6. Co-opt the headteacher to the PCC (but don't expect them to come to every meeting!).
7. Encourage church members to read the CE Vision for Education so they understand how transformative their input into school life can be.
8. Encourage church members to engender a "culture of affirmation" of the work of the teachers in your local school.
9. 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.
10. Include learning about church schools in the parish teaching programme.
11. Organise pastoral training and support for adults involved in school e.g. joint quiet morning, mentoring support.
12. Nurture vocations to the teaching profession and affirm and support church members who are teachers.
13. Organise or co-ordinate support for parents and "parenting". You might consider running a parenting course – see www.npi.org.uk for a range of resources.
14. Liaise with the school over dates and planning of 'big events' (fêtes, fund-raising etc.) and perhaps include some joint events.
15. Encourage church members to offer their time to the school to support things such as painting or listening to children read.
16. Run projects about local issues of social justice, such as Food Banks, or homelessness, together in partnership.
17. 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.
18. Organise a bible study or Alpha course in the school building during school time.
19. 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.



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