THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

Church & School Partnership Award

Handbook

to love to learn to serve

Church & School
Partnership Award

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Church & School
Partnership Award

Foreword

from The Bishop of Worcester

I am delighted to commend to you this Church and School Partnership Award.

We describe our vision in the Diocese of Worcester as 'Kingdom People': people shaped by the values of faith, hope and love that Jesus taught and embodied. These values inspire us to seek the flourishing of all people and to build strong, life-giving relationships between our churches and schools. This award celebrates those partnerships and encourages them to grow even deeper.

The Church and School Partnership Award celebrates the strong relationships that already exist between church schools and their local churches, and the transformation that often happens when they commit to working more closely. At a time of increased social dislocation, this kind of committed and creative kingdom partnership benefits children, staff, families, church and the wider community.

I hope you will join the growing network of churches and schools that are part of the Partnership Award, and that the materials in this pack will bring you closer together in the joys and the challenges that you face. I hope this award will inspire you to celebrate all that is good about your relationship as well as giving you lots of ways to develop and strengthen it.

Above all I pray that churches and schools across the diocese will continue to grow together as Kingdom People, rooted in faith, overflowing with hope and known for our love.

+Hugh

Church & School
Partnership Award

1 Introducing the Church & School Partnership Award

Effective relationships are a key aspect of any church and school. When a church and school have an effective relationship with one another, it can have a tremendous impact on the flourishing of all who come into contact them.

Good church and school partnerships contribute to the 'missio dei' in context (Mission of God) – that is to be light and hope to the communities that they serve in. Through this they support the growth and development of children and adults spiritually, emotionally, academically, and culturally. This is unique opportunity to, through their day-by-day actions, have a lasting transformational impact on each person that they meet. For churches, this is part of the '5 Marks of Mission', where tending to a broken world and transforming unjust systems should be a driver in how they live and breathe. Likewise for church schools, living out of their distinctively Christian vision encourages them to work in different ways to put the needs of others first. Both of these are challenging undertakings for either party to do alone. However, through effective collaboration, church and school can be a positive influence within their communities.

Church and school partnerships work best when there is commitment and 'buy-in' from both sides. Churches and schools may already work together in some informal capacity, with church leading acts of worship or school using the church for Christmas and Easter services. The Church and School Partnership Award seeks to do several things. Firstly, to celebrate all the things that churches and schools currently do to support one another and their local community. And secondly, to encourage churches and schools to work together more closely, deepening the relationship they have so that all may flourish and experience 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

The Church and School Partnership Award enables churches and schools to work collaboratively together, looking at what they already do and seeking new and exciting ways to forge stronger relationships. The aim of the accreditation is to facilitate a conversation, where church and school look openly at what they can offer one another in order to enhance the lives of each person in their community. This is a something that is also looked at closely under the SIAMS framework. Some may be able to do a lot and others may not have the resources to do so; however, a collaborative spirit and recognition of the value that each party brings is key to a successful relationship. It is hoped that through this process that there will not be one party that drives the relationship more than the other, but rather a mutual eagerness to see people transformed. Accreditation for the award is not dependent on a keen RE Lead, an enthusiastic headteacher or a 'can't say no' vicar, but rather the recognition within the community that anyone can play a part in the flourishing of all.

It is hoped that this award will not put additional work on any one party but rather bring church and school together in a life affirming way, celebrating that which is already taking place and encouraging where things could be deeper.

There are different levels of accreditation for this award, Bronze, Silver and Gold. The progression of each award reflects the depth of impact of the relationship rather than the need to do more things. Everything that you need to get started is found within this handbook and the accompanying Accreditation Criteria. The Bronze, Silver and Gold structure means that wherever you are on your relationship journey, Church and School Partnership Award will guide you through your next steps.

2 Guidance on the criteria

This guidance gives a brief explanation of the importance and rationale to each of the themes covered within the accreditation criteria. It may also give an indication as to what assessors will be looking for as they reflect on the evidence provided with an application. Practical examples of activities, which may support work under each of the themes, can be found in the appendices to the criteria.

A. Prayer and Worship Life

For both church, and school prayer, and worship are important aspects of everyday life. It is through prayer and worship that individuals have opportunities to grow spiritually and learn more about themselves. Prayer and worship should be natural and enable a transformational change. For schools, worship should be inclusive, invitational and inspirational enabling pupils and adults to be the change in the world, ultimately leading to courageous advocacy.

In this section, churches and schools are invited to talk about how, through carefully planned collaboration, prayer and worship enables the whole community to flourish. This may be through joint services, special events or shared teaching on the importance of prayer and worship within the wider community. Church and school must work together to create a culture where prayer and worship are valued and given prominence within the wider worshipping community.

B. Activities in Church and School Life

Part of building a great relationship is doing things together. Spending time together helps build stronger relationships. It helps us to understand one another's values and ensures the growth and development of all.

In this section, churches and schools are invited to talk about how, through carefully planned collaboration, they can respond to one another's needs. Activities are worked through collaboratively and for the benefit of all. Provision should not put undue pressure on one side or the other but rather come from a place of valuing the contribution each group can make.

C. The Use of School and Church Buildings and Outside Space

Space within a church or school is often at a premium. Effective use of space can contribute to the flourishing of all. For example, when church and school are able to use communal space, including outside space to support one another. When done well this can lead to exceptional flourishing.

In this section churches and schools are invited to talk about how, through carefully planned collaboration, they use space inside and outside the church and school to the benefit of all. Creative use of space is seen as a positive aspect of how the school and church work together. This may include the way space is crafted for collective worship, teaching of religious education, developing spirituality or enhancing the prayer life of church and school.

D. Service to the Community

A good relationship is not only about how the church and school support one another but also about how their collaboration has an impact of the community that they serve. Both church and school are part of the overall mission of the church – that is to be beacons of light and hope to the community they inhabit, locally, nationally and globally.

In this section, churches and schools are invited to talk about how, through carefully planned collaboration, they may serve their community and bring about effective change. This may include aspects of charity work and joint projects to support causes important to the community they serve. It is also about both church and school seeking ways to be courageous advocates in the place that they live, bringing hope and justice to the lives of all.

E. Overall Impact

In this final section, church and school are invited to talk about the overall impact of their relationship. Before writing anything in this section there are a few questions that both church and school may wish to ask one another and the community:

1. What would the impact be if the church/school were not part of the community?
2. What might happen if the headteacher/vicar were to move on?
3. What would be the impact if there were no relationship between church and school?

Through answering these three questions it may give church and school an understanding of the impact that their relationship is having and potentially where the drive for the relationship is being held.

In this section, as with all sections, church and school are also asked to consider what the next steps might be to strengthen the relationship. This is not a sign that things are not going well but rather an indication that church and school value the impact that one another has.

3 How to apply for accreditation

Step 1

Set up a meeting

Set up a meeting between the school and the local church. Agree together that you are going to work towards the accreditation.

Step 2

Register your interest

Register your interest in the programme by completing the online form. You will receive an email with the assessment criteria and the application form.

Step 3

Create an action plan

Begin working on an action plan. Have an honest conversation about where your relationship is and where you might like it to be. It may be useful to look at the award criteria to help you know where you might be. Have a look at some of the suggested ideas about how to work together as a church and school and look to putting some of them into practice. We recommend that at the start of this process you create a contract between school and church in order to show commitment between both parties. Templates of contracts are available as part of this pack.

Step 4

Start working towards the accreditation

Start working towards the accreditation. This stage will take a minimum of 3 terms to embed the work that you are doing within school and church. Work together to embed your action plan and build the relationship. Remember this is all about the impact of the relationship and only works if both school and church are working on it together. Review your action plan constantly and seek opportunities together to build and improve the relationship for the benefit of all.

Step 5

Submit your Application

Complete the application form with as much detail as possible. Once complete, send the application, and any supporting evidence, to the accreditation team.

Step 6

Assessor visit

Should the accreditation team believe that the application shows elements of the Gold Level Criteria, a member of the accreditation team will contact the named contact on the application form to arrange a visit to the school. They will meet with representatives of the church and school. They will assess the evidence provided and look carefully at the impact of the relationship on the whole community.

Step 7

The Decision

You will be sent the accreditation team's decision on your application. Hopefully you will be able to celebrate the hard work with the award. If the accreditation team feel that more work is needed this will be outlined in their report

Celebrate

Church and school will receive letter from the Bishop's of Worcester and Dudley congratulating them on their achievement, along with Church and School Partnership Logos which can be used on websites and letterheads. They will also receive a certificate to commemorate their award which will be presented to them at an act of worship within the school. You may choose to invite the local newspaper to celebrate the success.

OR Try again

If you were not successful in achieving an award this time you can use the feedback to help you re-apply.

4 What makes a good application?

Nurturing and maintaining a successful relationship between church and school takes time and commitment. Having spent time working together and fostering that relationship you will want to celebrate the good things that you are doing as a community. Here are a few tips and things to avoid, to ensure the assessors knows exactly what you do.

Successful applications are likely to:

- Leave the assessor with a clear sense that the relationship between church and school has a deep transformational impact on the local community.
- Focus on the impact of relationships rather than the events or activities that are done.
- Demonstrate that both church and school are equally invested in the relationship, and both seek ways to drive change.
- Have links across criteria areas. For example, themes explored in prayer may also have an impact on worship or use of buildings. These elements do not happen in isolation, but all work together to bring about transformational flourishing.
- Demonstrate through evidence that a deep collaborative partnership exists between church and school where there is a firm understanding of 'us' rather than 'they' and 'we'. This ensures that church and school are regarded as one community and central to the wider community enabling flourishing of all.

Unsuccessful applications are likely to:

- Be vague, poorly written and lack sufficient detail to suggest that both church and school understand the impact of what they do.
- Focus on the process rather than the impact of the actions taken.
- Be focussed solely or mainly on the work of one party rather than the collaborative efforts of both.
- Demonstrate a misunderstanding of the criteria or the themes contained within the accreditation scheme.

5 Frequently asked questions

Eligibility

Is this only for primary schools?

No, all schools, whether primary, first, middle or secondary are eligible to apply for the Church and School Partnership Award.

As a school, can we apply for the award by showing a relationship with a non-Church of England Church?

No. Whilst strong relationships with any church will have benefits to the flourishing of the local community, it is important that, as a Church of England School, relationships with the local Anglican Church are carefully fostered and prioritised. This award may just be the starting point of a new relationship that blossoms into something transformational.

As a Church we do not have a Church of England School in our parish, but we do have a good relationship with the local community school. Are they eligible to apply?

Yes, if the church has built relationships with other schools because there are no Church of England schools locally, we would be delighted to receive an application to celebrate the relationship. However, the application must be agreed between both school and church. Furthermore, if there is a CofE school in the parish, a relationship with this school should be a priority.

We are part of a church/school outside of the Diocese of Worcester, can we apply for the award?

At present this award is only open to schools and churches within the Diocese of Worcester. This may change in the future. In the meantime, please do speak to your Diocesan Education Team as they may have similar awards available.

Getting started with the process

I'm interested, how do we get started?

That's fantastic. The first thing you need to do is arrange a meeting between the school and the local church. This award is all about the impact of a relationship and therefore can not happen unless both parties are committed to seeing the process through and acknowledge the benefit a relationship has. Talk things through with your church/school and make sure that you are both happy with everything and willing to put in the time and effort required.

We currently don't have a good relationship with our school/church, or one party is not interested in applying for the award. What can we do?

This award celebrates the relationship between church and school. If a relationship does not already exist this may be a good time to try and foster that relationship. Try to contact the church/school to try to form the start of a relationship. There are courses run by the Diocesan Education Team which may help with this. Alternatively, the education adviser can support in enabling a relationship to form. If one party is not interested in applying for the award, sit down together and try and understand why. It may be about time commitment, or it may be something else. Do keep lines of communication open and work through the journey together.

Both church and school are keen to get going, what do we do now?

You will need to register your interest by completing the online form, which can be found at https://forms.office.com/e/b5suEf8a3y. You will then be sent the accreditation criteria and the application form. Once received, look through the criteria together. Begin to think about what you do already do and what more you might do to foster your relationship. This will help you to create an action plan enabling you to work on the key priorities for you as a community.

5 Frequently asked questions

Do we need to create a contract?

No, you do not need to create a contract. However, it is worth acknowledging that this is about relationships and partnership. True flourishing will only take place if both church and school are fully committed to making it work. The suggested contract should be seen more as a partnership agreement which sets out what church and school can expect from one other as they work together for the benefit of their local community.

The accreditation process

When will we be able to gain accreditation?

Churches/schools can apply for accreditation when they are ready. The accreditation team meet six times a year and applications must be submitted no later than two weeks prior to the panel meeting. As this award is about the impact of the relationship, we recommend that schools and churches take a minimum of four terms to embed any new aspect of their relationship. Bronze and Silver Award holders may apply for a higher award before their current award expires; however, we will only accept these applications after a minimum of two academic years from receipt of the last award. Sufficient time must have been taken to increase and deepen the work done within the community to ensure that the relationship is having a transformational impact on all.

How do we apply for accreditation?

You must complete an application form which is signed by both the school representative and the church representative. This evidence-based application form gives opportunities for school and church to give specific examples of what they have done to fulfil the criteria and what impact these examples have had, as well as considering what they may need to do further. The form along with any supporting documentation should be emailed to the Revd Duncan Hutchison at the Education Team. The Accreditation Team will review your application and evidence. The award received will be based on the evidence provided. If the Accreditation Team believe that you have enough evidence to suggest being awarded Gold, a visit will be arranged to school and church to discuss the application and review any additional evidence you may have.

Will someone visit the church/school and what will the visit involved?

An assessor will only visit the school if the accreditation team believe that there could be sufficient evidence towards achieving the Gold Award. During this visit the assessor will want to talk to the representatives of the school and the church to gain a deeper understanding of how they operate as one community. They will review evidence and talk to pupils and members of the community to hear about their experiences, plans and learning. Please ensure that a everyone is available on the day of the visit.

What are the costs of joining the scheme?

Joining the scheme is free to schools and churches. There are no fees to pay for accreditation at any level.

What will we receive if we are successful?

Every accredited church and school will receive a letter from the Bishops of Worcester and Dudley congratulating them on their achievement. They will also receive electronic branded logos which can be used on letterheads, websites and any communication sent from the church or school. For each award, church and school will receive a Certification of Accreditation which will be presented to them during an act of worship at school.

What happens if our application is unsuccessful?

If an application is unsuccessful, school and church will receive a report from the accreditation team detailing the partnership strengths and areas for development. The report will highlight where further work is needed to meet the criteria and an appropriate time scale before reapplication.

How long does the accreditation last?

All awards last five years and will expire on the anniversary of receiving the award. Each award can be renewed between four and five years from the date of the award. Should a school/church wish to upgrade their award during the five-year period, they may do so only after two academic years have elapsed.

5 Frequently asked questions

Fit with other programmes

Can I use my Church and School Partnership award as evidence for Global Neighbours, the RE Quality Mark or another accreditation?

No, the Church and School Partnership award is a local award and is not accredited with any other scheme or programme. Specifically, it looks at the relationship between the church and the school and the impact that this relationship has. There may be overlap, in that some of the evidence that you submit for the Church and School Partnership Award may also be effective evidence for another award. However, just because you have a Bronze, Silver or Gold award does not automatically mean that you will receive an award from another award scheme, and visa-versa.

Will the award mean that I will get a good SIAMS result?

No, the Church and School Partnership Award does not replace a SIAMS inspection. The scheme specifically looks at the relationship between the church and the school and the impact that this relationship has. Although SIAMS does also look at the relationship between church and school, its remit is much broader and takes account of many more aspects of church school life. You are of course welcome to submit the award as part of your evidence base during your SIAMS inspection, and we would encourage you to do so; however, SIAMS are not required to accept it as proof that your relationship is strong, they will still make their own assessment.

Support, resources, and partnerships

Where can we get further information and support about the award?

General information about the award can be found on our website or by contacting the Revd Duncan Hutchison, Education Adviser. There are courses available through the Service Level Agreement run by the Education Team which may support you in making strides in relationships between church and school. These courses are available to schools and clergy. For further details please contact the team by emailing education@cofe-worcester.org.uk.

Can we work with other schools in our diocese or multi-academy trust?

Sharing ideas and resources ideas amongst schools and churches is always beneficial and there may be times when joint projects beyond your own parishes are effective. We are also aware that some churches have more than one Church of England School in their parish, and it may be effective to do some events jointly. Please note, however, that each award will only apply to one church and one school. Therefore, in a situation where a church has more that one school in its parish, a separate application for each church and school partnership would be required.

Help! We are stuck for ideas about how church and school might support one another.

In the appendix section of this handbook there is a list of 100 or so ideas of things that schools and churches could do to support one another. These are not given as an exhaustive list or meant to be used as a checklist, but rather as a conversation starter and somewhere to get started. As the award gathers momentum a repository of good ideas will be created to share best practice across the Diocese.

Getting in touch

How do I register my interest in the award?

The registration of interest form can be found online at https://forms.office.com/e/b5suEf8a3y. Its free and entails no commitment to apply for accreditation.

Who should I contact if I have questions not covered by this handbook?

Please contact the Revd Duncan Hutchison on 07960 977847 or by email on dhutchison@cofe-worcester.org.uk

Appendix 1

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 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 of the criteria document.

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, consisting 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 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 accreditation team meeting for it to be considered in that round of accreditations.

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 approval of their accreditation by the accreditation team.

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 church and school 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 first being received.

Appendix 2

Church & School Partnership Agreement

This agreement has been set up to support the effective working relationship between:

.....

and

.....

We recognise that a working relationship is beneficial to both church and school and furthermore it has the ability to have a transformational impact on the whole community. We also acknowledge that an effective relationship is not the sole responsibility of the headteacher or incumbent of the church.

Therefore, to support the flourishing of the relationship between us.

..... Church will

-
-
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-
-
-

..... School will

-
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-
-

This agreement will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the actions are still appropriate for each party.

Signed: ✗..... Date:.....

(Church representative)

Signed: ✗..... Date:.....

(School representative)

Appendix 3

Ideas for Church & School

A. Prayer and Worship

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. Invite children who are learning instruments to play them in the church for services or events.
14. Establish a core of hymns, songs and liturgy that will be used in worship in both church and school.
15. 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.
16. Organise training jointly for worship leaders in church and school.
17. Establish confirmation classes for those who wish to, on school premises, perhaps after school.
18. Support the school in the use of liturgy in worship, church calendar, saints and special days and seasons.
19. Find team to offer 'Open the Book'. https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/
20. Run a takeover day where school children help organise the worship in church including leading, reading etc.
21. Set up prayer walks around the school and local community by members of the parish.
22. Help church workers make a year plan of when you would like them to come in for visits, assemblies, special occasions and when they could plug their special events, services and clubs.
23. Include item on worship and church links in Headteacher reports to governors and in school improvement plans.
24. Offer training for those coming regularly to lead Collective Worship.
25. Hold special services at the end of each term and a special leavers service for those moving to new schools at the end of the year.
26. Hold a commissioning service when a new headteacher starts or welcoming service for new members of staff.

Appendix 3

Ideas for Church & School

B. Activities in Church and School Life

1. Run a lunchtime or after school club for children. Offer afterschool clubs depending on the expertise you have available. For example, gardening, Bible stories, art & craft, dance, music, drama, sport/games.
2. Run Messy Church in school.
3. Establish a holiday club or playscheme together.
4. Help with 'Golden Time' activities.
5. Find ways to integrate Sunday School or All-age Worship and school programmes.
6. Share the church's world mission links with the school and vice versa.
7. Run a joint church and school Christian Aid week with an educational, as well as fundraising dimension.
8. Organise events jointly such as Christmas activities, toy/homeless charity collections or Foodbank or shoe-box appeals.
9. Help create spaces for teaching staff and congregations to reflect theologically on the task of education.
10. Provide a special morning coffee and snacks to the staff once a month or at the end of a school term.
11. Plan an annual Church School Partnership Day on which church members visit and plan activities in school.
12. Seek out ways of listening to children's perspectives of church and the Christian faith.
13. Encourage a good flow of news through a school page in the parish magazine or church contribution to school newsletter.
14. Think about opportunities for older students to serve through work experience at the church.
15. Invite church members to bake or provide cakes or biscuits for the staff room. These are always welcome or could also be for special occasions such as OFSTED or SIAMS 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.
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.
20. Donations of old school uniform could be given to the church. Church then holds a morning where parents can come and take uniform.
21. Supporting children and parents through times of transition can be an important and valuable role that church members can offer help with. Scripture Union offer two resources:

    a. 'Get Ready, Go!' is a resource for children starting primary school. A version for parents is also available.

    b. 'It's Your Move' is for those moving from primary to secondary school. Both can be found at www.scriptureunion.org.uk
22. Let school staff know about 'Alpha' or other courses on offer at the church.
23. Back to School Sunday – bless the school bags etc
24. Offer to be on or organise a 'grill a Christian' panel.
25. Help meet the needs of the RE curriculum creatively and appropriately.

Appendix 3

Ideas for Church & School

B. Activities in Church and School Life

26. Share the school's distinctively Christian vision with the congregation and ask them to pray into it.
27. Leadership teams from the church and school meet once a term to prayer together, evaluate how the partnership is working and plan for the term ahead.
28. Invite the headteacher or other members of staff to take part in services by reading the scripture etc. This may be on special occasions such as Easter/Christmas but could be at any time.
29. Invite the headteacher and children from the school to participate in the installation of a new incumbent.
30. Invite the headteacher or some of the children to be part of the interview process for a new incumbent, such as being invited to lunch or a session where candidates meet people related to the wider church community. Perhaps the school could contribute to the parish profile/job advert by suggesting what they would like in a new vicar.

C. The Church and School Buildings

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. Arrange class visits to the church to explore the symbolism and functionality of the building.
6. 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.
7. Have regular displays of school children's work in church.
8. Work with children to make an altar frontal, banners, vestments, or flower displays for the church.
9. Work together to organise a church-based activity day for all the school community. Make it an ecumenical venture and include the whole community.
10. Have a church stall at the school fete, or a school stall at the church fete.
11. Offer to run a pre-bookable crèche for parents for important meetings such as parents' evenings or curriculum evenings. (Risk assessments and appropriate DBS checks will need to be carried out.)
12. Pay for your school to access iSingPop or another resource which may benefit the school and church.
13. Allow school to use the church to put on an iSingPop concert.
14. Help school develop 'wild', 'spiritual' or 'food' gardens in their grounds or offer parts of church grounds/gardens for this.
15. Run 'Experience' sessions during the key seasons of the year – Christmas. Easter, Pentecost, Harvest. Resources are available from Jumping Fish Publications https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/welcome-2/schools/jumping-fish-publications/
16. Work on an art project together that brings together the core values of the local church and the Christian vision of the school.

Appendix 3

Ideas for Church & School

D. Service to the Community

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 during a service.
4. Ensure there is feedback from governors and a regular 'school' item on the PCC agenda.
5. Encourage church members to engender a "culture of affirmation" of the work of the teachers in your local school.
6. 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.
7. Organise or co-ordinate support for parents and "parenting". You might consider running a parenting course.
8. Liaise with the school over dates and planning of 'big events' (fêtes, fund-raising etc.) and perhaps include some joint events.
9. Encourage church members to offer their time to the school to support things such as painting or listening to children read.
10. Run shared/joint projects about local issues of social justice, such as Foodbanks, or homelessness, together in partnership.
11. 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.
12. Organise a bible study or Alpha course in the school building during school time.
13. Create Links with local residential home for termly visits – sing, chat etc. Write letters, make and send Christmas/Valentine Day cards.
14. Donations of fresh fruit and veg at school harvest festival. Church and school to work together to then make a 'soup and crumble lunch' for community. Children could act as welcomers, servers, sing songs.
15. 'Sponsor a school sweater' – ask congregants to contribute towards the cost of an embroidered school jumper for a family in need.
16. Set up a discretionary fund. Donations from members could be used to help support buses for school trips; or pay towards a child attending a school residential or resources for the school.
17. Encourage members of the church to attend school Christmas/Summer Fayres.
18. Invite school parents to the fundraising projects and community days run by the church, such as summer fates, Christmas markets, Lenten Lunches or quiz nights etc.

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