

Confirmation - Good engagement

- Take a moment to thank the young people for attending the course/event – how much we appreciate them coming and we know that it is a gift and sacrifice on their part (*Confirm not Conform* (CnC))
- Confirmation preparation should be conversation, not just information – it must have **application** to their own lives – what do you do, how does it affect you, how do you need to change or do things differently now? #relational
- From CnC’s blog ‘Faith for the journey’:
 - (to) make confirmation a positive experience for a wider range of people you have to engage **multiple learning styles**
 - If you wait until after confirmation ends to encourage ongoing church engagement, you’ve waited too long
 - Don’t be afraid to experiment and try new things.
 - Be interactive and intentional.
 - Don’t get so consumed with transmitting information that you lose sight of the importance of relational ministry.
- What if the goal of Confirmation preparation wasn’t to make sure those confirmed have everything they need, but to make them **hungry for more?** (CnC)
- About developing living, dynamic relationships with God and one’s neighbour.
- Define the outcomes... ‘At the end of the program, participants will...’
- Relationships and relationship building are crucial. Create a space for healthy, life-giving relationships to flourish – this will encourage one another in faith (CnC)
- Encourage use of appropriate faith-enhancing ‘apps’.
- ‘Events’ – Pilgrimage, walks, visit ‘big holy space’, etc.
- Adults walking with young people – it’s effectively like an apprenticeship (*The Confirmation Project* (TCP))
- Mentoring as mutually beneficial:

“Mentors and apprentices are partners in an ancient human dance, and one of teaching’s great rewards is the daily chance it gives us to get back on the dance floor. It is the dance of the spiraling generations, in which the old empower the young with their experience and the young empower the old with new life, reweaving the fabric of the human community as they touch and turn.” - Parker Palmer
- More from TCP:
 - They have discovered that those congregations where Confirmation is working really well are those that use engagement first, doctrine second; Shift from focus on rite to youth engagement; build on the strength of their lives and their interests. Purpose is still to teach but nurturing relationships with young people is crucial.
 - The purpose of the Confirmation Course is not to get the kids confirmed! The purpose is for them to become lifelong followers of Jesus.
 - How is Confirmation actually meeting (in your context) the spiritual hungers of young people?
 - Needs to be a resource-rich learning environment

- Life-wide, relationally rich: shift from cognitive learning about Christianity to active engagement with it; intentionally designed to connect personal life, faith and world
- Using multiple pedagogical (methods and activities of teaching) strategies (day retreat, camp, day out, an 'event')

**Salisbury Diocese Confirmation Project
(2015-2018)**

Salisbury Diocese Board of Education, The Avenue, Wilton, Salisbury, SP2 0FG

Tel: 01722 744538

Website: <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/parishes/cypaf/confirmation>



THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN
BOARD OF EDUCATION

'Working for children, young people, schools and parishes'

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF SALISBURY