



THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Strengthening partnerships between parishes and schools

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TRANSFORMING LIVES



INTRODUCTION

This leaflet is intended to provide practical examples of good practice and suggest some ways that the members of the church and school community can share in and contribute to each other's work and role. The Bishop has challenged us to renew hope through prayer, serving and growing. Parish and School partnership is a great way of 'renewing hope' through what we are doing. This applies of course to all types of school not just church schools and from pre-school to college.

The list is not exhaustive and extra sources of information and suggested resources are mentioned throughout.

An excellent short guide by Howard Worsley, *Churches Linking with Schools* (Cambridge: Grove Education Series, eD 2, 2010), in addition to containing many practical illustrations, also explores reasons why churches should be involved with schools. These are underpinned with some theological reflections on partnership and engagement.

The following titles in the same series are also very useful:
eD 8 '*Churches and Dioceses Resourcing Community Schools*' - Derek Holbird
eD 16 '*Help, There's a School in my Parish!*' - Anthony Buckley
eD 20 '*A Theology of Hospitality for Anglican Schools*' – Tom Wilson

Possible activities for both school and parish to do together

'All the believers were one in heart and mind...They shared everything that they had.' Acts 4:32

- Try to ensure that church and school liaise over dates and planning of 'big events' – consider including some joint events and support each other's activities: fund raising, harvest suppers, bazaars, concerts, community events/family days, a

Christmas Toy or Shoe-Box Appeal.

- Establish Education Sunday as a major opportunity for church and school to come together (September each year). Resources can be found here: www.cte.org.uk/Groups/234838/Home/Resources/EducationSunday.aspx
- Find appropriate opportunities in the church event diary to which children and their families may be sent special invitations, e.g. Christingle.
- Encourage a good flow of news through the school page in the parish magazine and a church contribution to the school newsletter.
- Organise shared worship occasions between church and school in both places e.g. some schools hold worship once a week in the church. If this is not possible, do endeavour to hold end of term services or special events around festivals at the church, even using the church for occasional and special services enhances the sense of partnership between the two.
- Think about setting up prayer spaces. These can be particularly helpful at significant times, such as during exams in secondary schools. Areas may be temporary or permanent. Excellent ideas can be found here: www.prayerspacesinschool.com
- Create spaces for school staff to reflect and take stock.



- Encourage parish musicians to support music and worship in school and perhaps vice-versa - school to support special services during the year - consider establishing a joint parish/school choir, music group for such times.
- Establish a core of hymns, songs and liturgy that will be used in worship in both church and school enabling each to learn from the other.
- Work together to increase pupils' understanding of the developing world through the diocesan link with South Sudan. Contact: lindy.cameron@salisbury.anglican.org for more information or advice.



- Share parking facilities and/or buildings. Marshwood church is used by the school each day of the week for worship and a variety of curriculum activities and meetings.
- Work together to produce activities and materials for when children visit the church.
- You might like to discuss the possibility of school and parish sharing the hosting and running of parenting courses.
- Join together to support parents who have children starting school for the first time such as the '**New Start**' scheme. Starting school is a big milestone which involves changes and some anxieties for parents and children alike. New start eases the way into school, enabling both parents and children to feel more confident. It is a useful addition to the school's own induction process and develops the links between the church, the school and the community. To find out more please contact: Barbara Meardon (contact details at the end

of this leaflet) or Joanne Triffitt: pdo.mothersunion@yahoo.co.uk

- Some schools have opportunities within the year for children to participate in the Eucharist or Communion service. This is something for the incumbent and school to carefully consider. There are good resources for exploring and celebrating communion with children.
- Share arrangements for children and/or parents and staff to attend confirmation classes. For further information contact: Neil Larkey, Project Worker for Young People's Confirmation at neil.larkey@salisbury.anglican.org

- Find out the gifts of those in the school and those in the parish and use these to serve one another in beneficial ways, for example, by working on joint ventures such as an environmental project or building a spiritual garden. www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/spiritual-gardens



- Work together to develop chaplaincy and mutual support. Contact Lizzie Whitbred for support. (Contact details at the end of this leaflet)
- Offer work experience and volunteering opportunities for young people shared by school and parish e.g. schools may be able to provide catering students to support church lunch clubs.
- Link with other church youth organisations such as Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers, Boys Brigade.

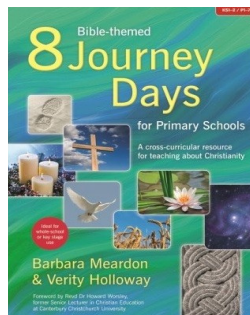
- Develop reciprocal arrangements with parishioners e.g. IT support, hearing pupils read, working with individuals.

- Explore the possibility of the church running an after school or lunchtime club or ask for volunteers to help run existing activities e.g. clubs, choir or other music group, holiday club, *Lighting the Candle Collective Worship Club*.



- Consider holding a weekend of workshops based on the creative arts for Gifted and Talented children. These may be supported by clergy and the church. The pupil's work and achievements can be celebrated and shared in a service. If possible share display pictures and any work the pupils produce in both the school and church after the event. Occasions such as these provide significant opportunities for spiritual development for all involved as well as being memorable and great fun.

- **8 Bible Journey Days** is a resource including eight story-based workshop days and parish celebrations to inspire primary schools to deliver top quality cross-curricular RE, supported by local churches. www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/8-bible-themed-journey-days



- Run a children's quiet day using the pack '**Let the Flame Burn Brighter**'. The pack contains full instructions and resources based on the story of Elijah. www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/childrens-quiet-day
- '**Let the Children Come**' is an imaginative resource for schools and churches that explores eight of the UNCRC

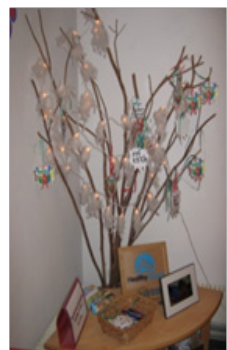
articles from a Christian perspective. It is based on Jesus' teachings and links well to values and citizenship education and includes a Magna Carta update. www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/publication

- Social justice projects, such as supporting church/community e.g. children helping at luncheon clubs by serving or singing to entertain or running a tea for elderly people where the pupils have cooked the food, serve it, send invites etc. or churches providing lunch for pupil premium children during the school holiday or a walking bus to enable vulnerable children to get to school on time. For more ideas contact the team.
- Church and school together organise a church based activity/ community day of fun activities, games and food. Make it an ecumenical venture and include the whole village or neighbourhood.

Some ideas of how the school might serve the parish?

'In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.' Philippians 4:6

- Pray for the local clergy, church and parish in school collective worship. Sensitivity will be needed as to how and where public prayers are said for individuals or sensitive situations.
- Offer prayers written by pupils in school to the church for use in its worship.
- Have a prayer book or tree that can be shared with the church congregation with prayers/prayer requests.
- Hold regular 'open' collective worship occasions in school, to which adults from



the parish are invited. Invite the church to school open days, special events; be involved in particular school projects or activities week.

- Plan opportunities throughout the curriculum that promote the church.
- Exhibit pupils' work in the church.
- Invite children who are learning instruments to play them in church.
- Allow the church to use the school building or grounds e.g. for summer barbecue, fete, or worship.
- Publicise events and groups that happen at the church.
- Take harvest gifts to parish residents or parish projects.
- Staff may share with parish children's workers current teaching methods and resources used in schools.

- Work with children to make banners, an altar frontal, vestments etc for the church.



- Draw pictures/illustrations to use on the publicity or orders of service at various services e.g. carol service

- Lead carol singing, perform songs to entertain older folk's groups, luncheon club, cook for a tea and invite parishioners along or just visit their groups for a chat.

Ideas of how the parish could serve the school

'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me.' Mark 9:37

- Establish a Prayer Support Group for the School.
- Include the school community regularly in public intercession and in the church prayer calendar. Ask the school to let you know about specific things that are happening e.g. events, trips, exams, new staff.

- **Pray, Bake, Read**

This new initiative, begun by Lichfield Diocese is gaining momentum here in Salisbury Diocese, it serves staff as well as pupils:

- PRAY... intentionally for your local school
- BAKE... a cake for the staff each half term
- READ... 1:1 with a student once a week.

www.salisbury.anglican.org/resources-library/schools1/parish-school-links/parish-school-links-pray-bake-read-jan-2016



- **Pray, Bake, Listen**

As an alternative to 'Read' do 'Listening'. This is very valuable but does need training. Contact Verity Holloway for details of 'ZULU – Zip Up, Listen Up' verity.holloway@salisbury.anglican.org or for mentoring training contact Lizzie Whitbread or Lindy Cameron: details at the back.

- More ideas about praying for your school are available here: www.prayforschools.org or you could consider having prayer bookmarks for people to take home and use to pray for specific things in school like Open the Book, clergy leading worship etc. Ask Barbara Meardon for a template.

- Encourage people to become **school governors** – and make sure they know that you value this really important form of lay ministry. A key role for the church PCC is to enlist Foundation Governors with a responsibility to uphold the school's Christian foundation and ethos. Consider commissioning your governors publicly in a service (ask for service ideas).
- **Foundation Governors** can act as a point of contact between the church and the school and are well placed to help facilitate ways to bring the church and the school closer. Governors can serve the school by getting to know them, by learning from them and by offering insight from their own experience as well as providing support and challenge.
- Ensure that there is feedback from **Foundation Governors** if you have a church school in the parish, and a regular 'school' item on the PCC agenda.
- In times of crisis, governors can offer practical support. (See DBE Advice of what to do in the event of a critical incident www.salisbury.anglican.org/images/inside-pages/schools/critical-incident-emergency-phone-line)
- Include the school in the parish Mission Statement and mission planning.
- Explore the 'Messy Church' initiative that is popular with children and families. A number of schools report how this exciting programme is benefiting links between school, church and families. For further information refer to: www.messychurch.org.uk or contact Barbara Meardon for advice.



- Support the school collective worship; either as individuals or as a group. For example by using **Open The Book** resources designed for lay members of the church to lead regular collective worship in school. This venture is now working brilliantly in almost 100 church and community schools and is extremely popular with both children and the adults involved. Further details may be obtained from the website: www.openthebook.net. Barbara Meardon leads the local training for this scheme and can also be contacted for further information.



- Include the school in special services for mid-week festivals and Patronal festivals e.g. St Andrew's Day.
- Help the school to put on reflective days at key festivals, perhaps using the *Experience Festival Series* - an imaginative approach to help children and young people experience the Christian festivals through the year using, on each occasion, six easy to assemble, interactive stations set up in different parts of the church - available from: www.gloucester.anglican.org/resources/jfish. Easter Experience and others in the series are also good for year 7 and 8 too.
- '*Experience Church*' from the series above can be run at any time of the year and aims to share what the Christian faith and life are about with children. For more information contact Barbara Meardon.
- **Clergy as Ex Officio governors** are particularly well placed to offer theological support for Collective Worship and RE. If you need support in this role please do contact the team.
- Help the school to find and use quality and up-to-date

Collective Worship resources (readily available online or in print).

- Offer to donate new Christian books and stories for classroom book corners or RE lessons e.g. the Scripture Union booklet *It's Your Church*, Bibles, Christian stories (not just Bible stories). For ideas contact the team. There is fund matching for donations of books that will increase the impact of your generosity.
- Identify any Christian artefacts or books that the school needs and ask if the church can help to provide these.
- Hospitality – as well as the incumbent, ensure that there are friendly church members in church at times when children visit, perhaps simply doing routine tasks. Suitable members may welcome pupils, give information, answer questions and, if appropriate to the visit, explain what their faith means to them. Open the Bookers would be ideal for this.
- Offer to host curriculum visits to the church, which could be linked to RE, DT, History, Maths, English, Art and Citizenship. These may be single year groups coming to church or RE GCSE groups.
- Offer to go in to school to speak in RE lessons on Christianity.
- Consider using paid children or youth workers in school and how best that time could be used. Church members could offer spare time to the school, assisting with painting, gardening, hearing children read or assist supporting classes of any subject - in both secondary schools and primary schools
- Donate and present copies of 'It's Your Move' / 'Get Ready Go' from Scripture Union books for children starting and

leaving primary school.

- Here is an example of a successful art project where children, led by the incumbent, explored icons, designing and painting their own.
- Collect resources for craft, props for plays etc. ask what the school needs.
- Collect supermarket vouchers for the school.
- Offer assistance when extra adults are needed, for example, sports days.
- Clergy could accompany schools to the Leavers services at the Cathedral.
- Offer practical support for a breakfast club or after school club.
- Establish a holiday club/play scheme run in the church or the school.
- If your local church has a youth worker they may be able to offer detached youth work at lunchtimes and mentoring to students etc. Contact Lizzie Whitbred for ideas and more information.
- Limited funding often means that school staff ask for support pastorally to help them support students – there may be appropriate people within the church community who could offer this.



- Organise pastoral training and support for adults involved in school.
- As a church value the contribution of church members who are involved in school life (as paid staff or volunteers) - not just in the local school. Consider the commissioning in services of staff, governors and volunteers who are involved in any school.
- Nurture vocations to the teaching profession and affirm and support church members who are teachers.

Further reading:

David Lankshear, Churches Serving Schools (London: Church House Publishing, 2002)

Trevor Cooling with Mark Greene, Supporting Christians in Education (London: LICC, 2008)

Rupert Bristow, Prayers for Education (Stowmarket: Kevin Mayhew, 2008).

Rupert Bristow, Prayer in Schools (Cambridge: Grove Education Series, 2012)

Contacts:

We really do value the excellent partnership work that is going on between parishes and schools and wish to share this as widely as possible. Please do get in touch with us for support or to celebrate what is going on in your school and parish.

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Team Manager & Adviser for Work with Children
and Families

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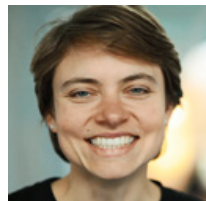
Mark Stratta - School and Parish Adviser

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with Young People

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Lindy Cameron - Diocesan Advisor for Work with
Young People lindy.cameron@salisbury.anglican.org.

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Dear Lord,
There are many gifts,
But the same Spirit.
There are many ways to serve,
But the same Lord.
There are many ways of working
But the same God at work in all.
There is one body, one Spirit, one hope,
One Lord, one faith, one Baptism.
There is one God, Father of all and in all,
And one Son who went to be with the Father.
There is one Spirit which gives gifts:
Some to serve in one way, others in another.
So that all can work together
To build up his body,
And to grow in the full life of Christ.
Amen.



