

Parish - School Covenant



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

*Shared missional ambitions, values
and practical commitments.*



Booklet 1



Introduction

The Parish School Covenant (PSC) is a written promise between a church and a school that sets out the shared missional ambitions, values and practical commitments between the school and the parish and can serve as an important framework for managing expectation.

The PSC is not a tool for measuring performance, but is designed to encourage all to engage in planning and delivering a realistic and achievable number of important promises - the scope of which will vary across localities according to the resources available, not least the competing pressures on clergy and schools.

The PSC provides a framework for annual reflection, and also gives a structure for presenting positive evidence for use in SIAMS inspections.

Within the PSC are a set of locally delivered commitments that reflect the parish and diocesan statutory duties as set out in the founding legal *Trust* documents and the instrument of governance for each school, plus the 2021 DBE Measure v2. The PSC is a useful vehicle to ensure that these duties are fulfilled.



Practicalities

There are two parts to the process of developing a Parish - School Covenant, these are set out in two booklets as described below:

Booklet One - Creating your **Covenant statement**, that fits the context of your school and church.

Booklet Two - Creating your **Parish-School plan**, that comes out of establishing the Covenant.

Once a parish and a school have followed the guidelines in the two booklets, the whole Parish - School Covenant will then comprise the following:

- A short written missional statement - a **Promise**
- A set of planned activities - **Commitments**
- A short evaluation and next steps - **Reflection**

All of this can be created using the Parish - School Covenant templates and toolkits in these two booklets.



Creating your Covenant statement

A starting point....

The Parish - School Covenant statement template provides a common collaborative framework to help school and church leaders articulate their expectations of the partnership for the year. Each school and church is invited to tailor and adapt this template. It is important to note that, because a PSC statement will reflect the opportunities and limitations afforded by each locality and circumstance (reflecting the human and physical resources available), each PSC statement will be different.

The Parish - School Covenant statement template is the starting point.



What to do next

- Please read both of the two example **Covenant Statements**, which can be used to mark the beginning of a developmental partnership between a school and a parish.
 - The **General Covenant Statement** is an exemplar of what a school and a parish might say, in general, about their partnership with each other.
 - The **Specific Exemplar Covenant Statement** is an example of how a specific school and parish have discussed and worked on a covenant statement that fits their particular context.
- Consider which stakeholders who might need to be involved in working on the PSC. Typically this might include the headteacher, vicar, chair of governors, churchwardens, PCC members, children's workers, Sunday school leaders, staff, foundation governors, school council *et al.* It would be good to ensure fair representation across the school and the PCC.
- Meet and discuss the covenant statement with those stakeholders as a **PSC Working Group**. The working groups should not be too big – possibly 6 is a large enough group.
- Use the covenant statement templates, or re-word your own covenant, using the template style, to fit your context, so that your covenant statement is something all stakeholders can sign up to.
- Complete and agree your covenant statement. At this stage we would really like to see your covenant statement so would ask that you send a copy of this to the *Diocesan Development Officer for School Mission*.
- Once we have received your covenant statement, we will then keep a copy for data purposes and send back 'display versions' to you for the school and church(es).
- Complete, by adding signatures, and display your covenant statement both in the school and the church.
- You may wish to celebrate the display of your covenant statement in school and church. If appropriate, please do invite members of the *Education, Mission and Ministry Team* to come and celebrate with you.



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

General Covenant Statement

Parish - School Covenant



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

Village C of E School and St. Village Church



Ambition

Our Christian ethos is our fundamental and guiding principle. The two core values which underpin our partnership are **Love** ('agape' - self-giving Christian love) and **Community** ('koinonia').

Together we seek to be both excellent and distinctive, celebrating our Church of England status alongside being a special place of teaching, learning and worship for those of all faiths and none.

We believe that all people should be valued and treated with equal respect. In our community everybody is included in God's love and care, and ours, supported to **live a life in all its fullness** through wisdom, hope, community and respect.

Commitment

We have agreed on a set of practical commitments to deliver our ambition. These are set out in our PSC Plan (copies available).

Signed

Chair of Governors

Headteacher

Vicar



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

Specific Exemplar Covenant Statement

Parish - School Covenant



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely



Village C of E
School and St.
Village Church



Ambition

Our Christian ethos is our fundamental and guiding principle. The value which underpins our partnership together is hope. Hope for all that is yet to come, and hope for every individual, whoever they are and where-ever they come from.

Together we seek to be both excellent and distinctive, serving one another and our communities in love, encouraging and spurring each other on. We celebrate our shared Church of England foundation as those here to serve our communities, welcoming all, being special places of teaching, learning and worship for all those who live in our community, of all faiths and none.

Together we aim to see the full flourishing of every individual we serve, creating supportive environments and communities in which everyone is loved, valued, respected, encouraged, and nurtured, that they may be challenged to grow in every regard.

Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds, encouraging one another—and all the more in the face of our hope.

Hebrews 10:24

Commitment

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Signed

Chair of Governors

Headteacher

Vicar



Support

Our **Education, Mission and Ministry Team**, and the **Ely Diocese Regional Advisers** (EDRAs) are available to offer support during the process:

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