

And please support members of the congregation who work or support schools in any way through prayer and encouragement

Supporting Local Schools

Practical suggestions for Churches

Practical Support

- Display children's work from the school in church especially at festivals.
- Include local schools regularly in prayers.
- Purchase suitable books or resources for the school (especially for worship, including music, and Christianity in RE).
- Discuss with the school whether the church can provide support for the teaching of Christianity as part of the RE curriculum (eg 'baptise' a doll, 'marry' a couple in church, provide an 'Experience Easter' event).
- Present Bibles or the S.U. Pack 'Moving On' to all school leavers.
- The church could offer to provide suitable adults to:
 - hear children read
 - run a lunchtime club
 - run a holiday club
 - accompany school trips
 - make costumes for plays
 - become mentors in schools
 - play the piano
 - run a breakfast club for children or for families
 - any other creative idea!
- Sponsor a 'school chaplain' arrangement with the school. This should involve pastoring the staff, children and occasionally parents and governors.
- Sponsor a training event for local schools on collective worship.
- Invite a newly appointed headteacher to a commissioning service at the local church (an example service is available from the Diocesan Education Office).
- Make the church available to schools and list possible activities (e.g. church 'trail', explanation of stained glass windows, child-friendly leaflet introducing the church etc).
- Provide a Christian symbol/artefact for the school hall or entrance area.
- Write encouraging 'thank you' or 'well done' letters to the staff and children after successful events.
- Subsidise school trips to Cathedral Services and/or visits (especially the Year 6 Leavers' Service for Church schools and the Cathedral Pilgrimage).
- Set up a fund to help needy families who can't always afford to pay

for school trips.

- Contribute towards the 10% costs for Church aided school building projects.
- Offer a Welcome Service to all pupils and families new in the autumn term.
- Offer to run a welcome BBQ / Quiz night / children's disco in September for new families.

Governor Support

- For Church schools, ensure a foundation governor reports regularly to the PCC on local school issues.
- Encourage the church to understand and value the role of school governor (whether foundation, parent or teacher).
- Encourage appropriate church members to become school governors as part of their Christian service.

Some Bridge-building Ideas

- Invite the headteacher to speak at a PCC meeting on an educational issue.
- Invite the headteacher, teacher or child to contribute an article for the parish magazine.
- Celebrate Education Sunday in church.
- Invite different classes to take part in occasional all-age services.
- Encourage schools to invite Church members to special school events.
- Encourage schools to hold special services in the church (e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Christingle, Easter, end of summer term etc).
- Ask the school to put the PCC secretary on the school mailing list.
- Put school events on the church noticeboard.
- Offer to run a Christian alternative to Halloween at the school.
- Offer to help sponsor a Christian drama team or puppet theatre.
- Develop some home/school/church projects (e.g. parenting classes, family worship services, chartable work, etc).

Providing People Support

- Invite suitable church members (as well as the incumbent) to be available when schools visit the church to give information and explain their Christian faith.
- Encourage church members who are part of the 'school-gate mafia' to support the school.
- Encourage all PCC members to be 'ambassadors' for the schools.