



**ST EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH DISCUSSION DOCUMENT FOR CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS TO WORK TOGETHER**

**Our vision for education is deeply Christian, with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart. In line with the Church of England's role as the established Church, our vision is for the common good of the whole community.**

**Church of England Vision for Education**

**School .....**

**Our vision is:**

**While church schools often have strong links with their local churches and benefit from a wide range of learning opportunities as a result, our Suffolk churches want to work with all their Community schools as well. For schools here is a resource for learning which is steeped in history and often art and design too. There are also often opportunities to explore values, citizenship issues and ecology. We have also identified five key areas through which schools and churches might work well together to offer more and deeper opportunities for symbiosis.**

**ACTIVITIES, PRAYER, WORSHIP, CHURCH BUILDINGS, MINISTRY**

**This document seeks to offer churches and schools in St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese a way to further develop the best practices already established in many communities. This is a discussion document to aid communication for the leaders of church and school communities. How it is used is up to you, but its aim is to keep to the forefront of everyone's mind all the possibilities offered to both organisations by working together.**

**The final page allows you to record the impact of any shared work.**

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **How can the school best benefit from links with the church?**

#### **IDEAS**

**Church and schools need to have two way conversations – so make a plan to achieve this When? Where? Who?**

**Link the PCC, and staff meetings - Reports to each other  
Attendance at both?**

**Hold the PCC meetings in the school? Pupils attend part of PCC?  
Sometimes?**

**A summer school/holiday club between church and school?**

**A joint event? (Coffee morning, inter-generational games  
afternoon? Share the planning and organising?**

**Support the RE teaching about Christianity (e.g teach about  
sacraments, liturgical year, Easter)**

**School to invite congregation to lunch for inter-generational  
engagement (community loves this!)**

**Schools to create learning opportunities in churches other than the  
parish church. Art – craft – history?**

**YOUR IDEAS?**

#### **ACTION:**

## PRAYER

### How can the prayer life of the church and the school reflect their links?

#### IDEAS

Prayers of Intercession in services - knowing what the school's needs are. Creating an awareness of children and staff in church and praying for issues of concern there.

Offering to lead an assembly and giving opportunities for prayer and reflection in assembly.

Prayers for the congregation and leaders of the church in school, and important events in the life of the church acknowledged

Empowering children to lead prayers in school or in church – or both!

Supporting the writing of a school prayer, to reflect all the school's values and be said in school and church.

School to display church prayer causes (often national/international tragedies) and draw attention to them

Children's reflections as a display in the church

Where children worship outside the parish church invite those churches to pray with you too – from other faiths for instance

#### YOUR IDEAS?

#### ACTION:

## WORSHIP

How might we ensure church worship reflects the needs of this school?

### IDEAS

Regular – termly? – school service in church with parents invited as a celebration? Led jointly by school staff and minister?

Festival church led service in school – Harvest? Easter? Leavers?

Open the Book – establish one!

Help school to teach the Christian curriculum – Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost

Jointly run holiday clubs?

Messy church – and Messy school! Use school and resources for Messy church?

Invite children to lead or speak at worship on a Sunday.

YOUR IDEAS ?

### ACTION:

## CHURCH BUILDINGS

**How can we work together so that children adults and families see the church as their spiritual home?**

### IDEAS

**What is a spiritual home – Explain!**

**Use the history of the church for curriculum needs – family history, WW1 and WW11, Art, Design and Technology are obvious but measure the length of the aisles for Maths, describe the church in a poem for English or dance in it for PE!**

**Invite schools into the buildings lots!**

**Involve affiliated local groups like scouts and school based clubs**

**Teach the stories of the stained glass windows**

**Link school staff and church members**

**Hold after school clubs – in church**

**Volunteer in school**

**Create a joint eco approach between church and school - Ask the school to help tidying the grounds or with planting?**

**Support the curriculum with mock baptisms/weddings etc**

**Explore the home churches of out of catchment children where these provide different learning opportunities**

**YOUR IDEAS?**

### ACTION:

## MINISTRY

**What can we do to ensure that strong relationships allow everyone to flourish?**

### IDEAS

**Be open minded together to discuss, learn and engage – use this toolkit!**

**Engage ministers and church members in youth work**

**Open the Book – works even with only two people**

**Church to positively engage with their local school to offer support**

**Create ecumenical opportunities**

**Worship in the school**

**Key church members involved in school development and ethos – volunteers and governors too. 'supportively involved in the life of the school'.**

**What is the church learning from what happens in school? How does the school learn about what is happening in the church?**

**Strengthen all relationships whenever you can**

**Children as worship leads**

**Parish leaders to invite those from the home churches of children living out of the parish to celebrate festival services together**

**Schools to invite in leaders of home churches of pupils outside catchment**

**YOUR IDEAS?**

### ACTION:

**Impact of actions 2020:**

**PRAYER**

**WORSHIP**

**ACTIVITIES**

**CHURCH BUILDINGS**

**MINISTRY**