



Churches and Community Schools Working Together

This document seeks to offer churches and schools a way to further develop the best practices already established in many communities. We have identified three key areas through which schools and churches might work well together: **Activities, Prayer and Worship** and **Church Buildings**. There is space at the end of each section for you to add your own ideas.

ACTIVITIES: How can the school best benefit from links with the church?	
IDEAS	ACTION
<p>Link the PCC and staff meetings with reports to each other. Attendance at both, Hold the PCC meetings in the school, Pupils attend part of PCC?</p> <p>A summer school/holiday club between church and school.</p> <p>A joint event, for example a coffee morning, games afternoon.</p> <p>Support the RE teaching about Christianity.</p> <p>Schools to have learning opportunities in church. RE, Art, History.</p> <p>Create ecumenical opportunities with different churches in the local area.</p> <p>Key church members involved in school development and ethos – volunteers and governors.</p> <p>How does the school learn about what is happening in the church? (and vice-versa).</p> <p>Invite those from the home churches of children living out of the parish to celebrate festival services together.</p>	



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich

PRAYER and WORSHIP:

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

IDEAS

ACTION

Praying for the school in church services - knowing what the school's needs are.

Prayers for the congregation and church leaders in collective worship, with important events in the life of the church acknowledged.

Offering to lead collective worship regularly.

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.

Children's reflections as a display in the church.

Regular school service in church with parents invited, led jointly by school and church staff.

Open the Book team to lead collective worship.

Messy church – invite team into school to lead an introduction session.

Invite children to lead, speak or pray in church on a Sunday.



CHURCH BUILDINGS:

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

IDEAS

ACTION

Use the church building for curriculum needs – RE, family history, world wars, Art, Design and Technology, measure the length of the aisles for Maths, describe the church in a poem for English or dance in it for PE!

Hold after school clubs – in church.

If the church has stained glass windows, teach the stories behind them.

Link school staff up with church members.

Church members to volunteer in school.

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

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