



Top Tips for Blessing Schools

Building a relationship with your local school is a great place to start or to develop your ministry with children, young people and families. Here are some simple ideas to help you get started or to move to the next level. We call this **'The White Noise of Blessing'**

Help your church understand why we need to work in our schools.

Share this pie chart with your PCC and congregation so that they can see where children spend their time. School is a key place to engage with children and families who do not come to church. At the same time our schools need our support and encouragement, with increasing demands made on staff and students.



Ask the school 'How can we help?'

Is there anything that the church can do to support the school? Think ahead of time what your capacity is, who might help, and see if you can work with their suggestions. Whilst doing assemblies or collective worship is often the obvious activity, it may not be the thing you are most confident with and there may be other ways to get involved.



Regularly talk and pray about schools with the church

Keep schools on the agenda - in sermons, in home groups, with the volunteers, with lay workers and ministry team. Pray at least once per month in the Sunday intercessions for the school(s) in your parish or nearby.

Involve as many people as possible to take special treats for the staff

Take a box of cakes, doughnuts, sweets, fruit, ice lollies, chocolates, or biscuits twice every ½ term. Include thank you cards for the staff that assure them of the church's prayers.



Encourage more people to be involved than just the vicar

You could select a **'Schools Champion'** who regularly reports to the whole church and co-ordinates your involvement with the school. Use peoples' gifts and availability – listening to children read regularly, being a school governor, leading assemblies can be best done by people with the ability and time to do them well. Build a team of people committed to the school. Remember 'small is good' – getting to know 5 children by regularly reading with them can be much better than standing in front of an assembly of 100!

Consider chaplaincy as a model for your involvement

Develop a ministry of presence in the school by being available to support staff, teachers, pupils, and parents can be more effective than dropping in to run collective worship or another activity. Could you spend a morning a week in the school, being in the staff room or playground or supporting forest school or other activities?



Think about the intersections of the Growing Faith Adventure

How can you develop relationships with parents as well as children & young people? How can relationships grow that will be sustainable once children and young people leave the school? The end game may not be people coming to 'Sunday church' but new forms of church growing in new places.

Further ideas for ways to engage with schools

Blessing your school will come in many forms, each church with its own unique style of engagement, with different people bringing different perspectives.

For a list of possible ideas [Visit the Church of England Faith at Home web page](#) or contact the [Gen2 Team - charlotte.nobbs@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:charlotte.nobbs@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)