



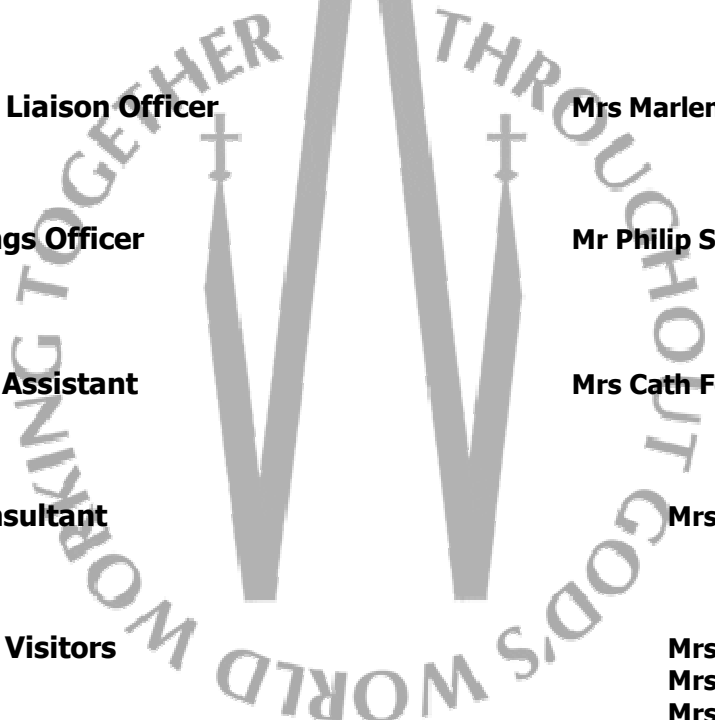
WAKEFIELD DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION



PARISHES & SCHOOLS WORKING TOGETHER



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One of the main recommendations of
***The Way Ahead: Church of England Schools In the New Millennium
(2001)***

is that Church schools must be distinctively Christian institutions and fully
integrated
into the life of the parishes.

The report argues for a growing unity of purpose within the whole Church community working in a new partnership with Church schools. It spells out how relationships within the Church at all levels can be enhanced so that Church schools can play a central role in promoting the Church's mission to the nation. It sees this as a task for the whole Church to engage in.

Many parishes contain a Church school and therefore many PCCs will have responsibility for focussing the church's support for the church school in its parish.

The included exercise helps focus this support.

HOW TO USE THIS

You could just read it and let it set you thinking!

It would be best to share it with a group of people, especially your PCC and ministerial chapter.

Why not start by asking people to tick just the five most obvious things that they know your church does already (there will probably be more than five!)? See if people agree on the five!

Then try to identify five more things that they think your church community could helpfully do and sustain. Try to choose the five that are most appropriate or valuable in your situation. It might be best to do this in pairs or small groups. When you come together again, list all the suggestions and then prioritise them. Agree to work on the top five. Spend some time then working out what each might mean in practice and agree on who will do what to implement them. Or you might think of better things not in the 55!

Make sure that you agree together when you will review progress and, perhaps, consider five more things to do!

Why not encourage all the parishes in your Deanery to do the exercise, and then set aside time at your Deanery Synod to share what everyone is doing and planning to do - especially where some schools serve more than one parish?

PRAYER

- 1 Include the School community regularly in public intercession.
- 2 Establish a Prayer / Support Group for the School.
- 3 At least one parish holds a monthly prayer event/group in school for governors, parents, teachers, clergy and teachers to join together.
- 4 Include school and people involved in Parish Prayer Cycle and include relevant school news and need in the Diocesan Prayer Calendar.

WORSHIP

- 5 Plan joint worship occasions between church and school in both places.
- 6 Establish a School Eucharist.
- 7 Include the school in special services for mid-week Festivals, Patronal Festival;
- 8 Hold regular 'open' collective worship occasions in school, to which adults are invited.
- 9 Establish a joint parish/ school choir, music group.
- 10 Invite children who are learning instruments to play them in church.
- 11 Encourage parish musicians to support music in school and school worship.
- 12 Establish a core of hymns, song and liturgy that will be used in worship in both church and school.
- 13 Encourage the school to use quality and up-to-date Collective Worship resources (readily available online or in print).
- 14 Establish Education Sunday as a major opportunity for church and school to come together, using material circulated to parishes each year.
- 15 Organise training jointly for worship leaders in church and school

ACTIVITIES

- 16 Enable School to become a 'Friend of the Cathedral'.
- 17 Enrol school as member of the National Society (and website subscriber) for a year (and encourage it to continue!)

- 18 Offer an After-School Club in school run by the church.
- 19 Establish a holiday club/ playscheme.
- 20 Find ways to integrate Sunday School/ All Age Worship and School programmes.
- 21 Share your parish's world church links with the school or vice versa.
- 22 Run a joint Church/ School Christian Aid Week effort - give it an educational as well as fund-raising dimension.
- 23 Organise jointly a Christmas Toy or Shoe-Box Appeal.
- 24 Help create spaces for teaching staff to reflect and take stock and the congregations to reflect theologically on the tasks of education.
- 25 Plan an annual Parish/School Day on which parish members visit and plan activities in school.
- 26 Find ways of listening to children's perspectives of church/ Christian faith.
- 27 In a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School, start a conversation about becoming Voluntary Aided.
- 28 Encourage good flow of news through a school page in the parish magazine, church contribution to the school newsletter etc

THE CHURCH BUILDING

- 29 Enable children and staff to meet the living church community as well as see the churchyard and church building!
- 30 Ensure classes which visit are personally and warmly welcomed.
- 31 Encourage some church members to become 'church hosts', visiting and meeting children in school prior to church visit, so that there are friendly known faces.
- 32 Ensure there are friendly church members in church at times when children visit, perhaps simply doing routine tasks.
- 33 Take the initiative in hosting a visit from a school.
- 34 Ask church members to "share their Christian story" when children visit.
- 35 Devise - perhaps with school specialists - suitable written materials/ worksheets for when school classes visit - emphasising the Christian journey as well as church features.
- 36 Make or find appropriate opportunities in the church event diary to which to specially invite children and their families e.g. Christingle.

- 37 Find ways for lay Christians as well as clergy to share faith experience in appropriate ways with children in school - perhaps in RE or Collective Worship.
- 38 Have regular displays of school children's work in church.
- 39 Work with children to make an altar frontal, banners, vestments etc for the church.
- 40 Church and school together organise a church based activity day for all the school community. Make it an ecumenical venture and include the whole village or neighbourhood.

MINISTRY

- 41 See ministry to the school as a whole parish responsibility, not just the job of the clergy.
- 42 Include the school in the parish Mission Statement and mission planning.
- 43 Encourage people to become school governors - especially Foundation Governors - and make sure they know you value this lay ministry.
- 44 Ensure there is feedback from Governors and a regular 'school' item on the PCC agenda.
- 45 Co-opt the Headteacher to the PCC (but don't expect him/her to come each time!).
- 46 Engender a "culture of affirmation" of the work of the teachers in your local school.
- 47 Recognise and support church members who are involved in school life (as paid staff or volunteers) - not just in the local school.
- 48 Include learning about Church Schools in the parish teaching programme.
- 49 Organise pastoral training and support for adults involved in school.
- 50 Nurture vocations to the teaching profession and affirm and support church members who are teachers.
- 51 Organise or co-ordinate support for parents and "parenting".
- 52 Liaise with school over dates and planning of 'big events' (fêtes, fund-raising etc.) - perhaps including some joint events.
- 53 Are there other adults who could offer spare time to the school (from painting to hearing children read)?
- 54 Encourage a Parent Teacher Association to become 'Friends of the School' so that it becomes open to the wider community (inc. the church).
- 55 Make sure your school knows about the many diocesan resources available to it.