

# School and Church Partnerships

## Guidance Tool

Both the school and parish church seek to serve the community in which they are located. The school community includes: children, teachers, families and the relationship between the school and church can be mutually beneficial.

This guidance tool offers an opportunity to review this joint working, celebrate successes and agree areas for development. This tool can be used by any school. The actions are in no particular order. Any actions that only apply to church schools are noted as such.

**School Vision (insert here):**

**Church Vision (insert here):**

## Nurturing the School Community

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Must/Aspire</b>	<b>School type</b>	<b>Further Information</b>
<b>1a.</b> The headteacher and clergy are known by name in each other's community and made welcome when they visit.	Ongoing	Must	All schools	
<b>1b.</b> The church community pray for the school.	Regularly	Must	All schools	Suggested times: Start of each term Exam season Times of bereavement
<b>1c.</b> The incumbent and headteacher meet for mutual sharing of hopes and concerns for the community.	Termly	Aspire	All schools	
<b>1d.</b> The church and school engage in joint projects to bless the wider community.	As opportunities arise	Aspire	All schools	Suggested times: Harvest, Remembrance, Environmental projects
<b>1e.</b> There is a mutual sharing between school and church about best practice in enabling children to flourish spiritually.	As required	Aspire	All schools	Could also include families/households.  Church schools – flourishing in the Christian faith.
<b>1f.</b> The school and church invite one another to take part in their community activities.	As required	Aspire	All schools	
<b>1g.</b> Clergy support the pastoral needs of the school community.	Ongoing	Must	All schools	Bereavement, illness
<b>1h.</b> School and church jointly plan prayers spaces and pause days for pupils.	As required	Aspire	All schools	Held in school or church, families could also be included.
<b>1i.</b> The school pray for the church in collective worship.	Regularly	Aspire	<i>Church schools</i>	Patronal/Saints festival

## In the School Building

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Must/Aspire</b>	<b>School type</b>	<b>Further Information</b>
<b>2a.</b> Church staff and volunteers visit the school to lead CW/assemblies.	As invited / Regularly	Aspire  (Must for church schools)	All schools	May include: Open the Book, Godly Play, Prayer Spaces.  For Church schools – it is good practice for the PCC to oversee this.
<b>2b.</b> Church staff and volunteers visit the school to support in RE lessons.	As invited	Aspire	All schools	
<b>2c.</b> New parents evening – vicar to attend and talk about role of school and church.	Annually	Aspire	Church schools	
<b>2d.</b> Clergy/church staff meet the new pupils on induction day at the next phase of education.	Annually	Aspire	Church schools	Clergy/church staff could be the familiar face when pupils move to secondary school.

## In the Church Building

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Must/Aspire</b>	<b>School type</b>	<b>Further Information</b>
<b>3a.</b> Host the school community in church for services/worship during the school day.	In a regular pattern	Strongly aspire	All schools – but more frequently for church schools	E.g. Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter, etc.
<b>3b.</b> Invite the school community to church services.	Regularly	Must	All schools	E.g. Messy Church, Education Sunday, festivals
<b>3c.</b> School to visit the church/churchyard for curriculum.	As required	Aspire	All schools	E.g. RE, History, Art, Creative Writing, Maths, etc
<b>3d.</b> Display work from pupils in the church.	As agreed	Aspire	All schools	Linked to festivals, RE, joint projects
<b>3e.</b> Host an annual new to school service.	Annually	Aspire	Church schools	May also be appropriate for non-church schools.
<b>3f.</b> Host an annual leaver's school service.	Annually	Aspire	Church schools	May also be appropriate for non-church schools.

## Communications and Governance

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Must/Aspire</b>	<b>School type</b>	<b>Further Information</b>
<b>4a.</b> Have a link to one another's websites/ social media. Include features in one another's newsletters.	Ongoing	Aspire (Must for church schools)	All schools	E.g. promote one another's events and services.
<b>4b.</b> A short celebration of the school and church partnership is included with PCC documents.	Annually	Aspire	All schools	Could be provided by the school, governors.
<b>4c.</b> Governance: The PCC encourage church members to serve as community governors.	Ongoing	Aspire	All schools (Church schools see 4d)	In Academy Trusts, the role of community governor may be different.
<b>4d.</b> Governance: Clergy are ex-officio governors. The PCC provide foundational governors.	Ongoing	Must	Church schools	All VC and VA schools and academies where the role of foundation governors exists. The diocese has further guidance.
<b>4e.</b> Clergy and foundation governors visit school during the school day.	At least half termly	Must	Church schools	
<b>4f.</b> Names of foundation governors are known to the congregation, and they feel recognised and supported in their role.	Ongoing	Must	Church schools	
<b>4g.</b> Contribute to the parish profile/vacancy pack when a new incumbent/headteacher is recruited.	As required	Aspire  (Must for church schools)	All school	The diocese can offer support.

# Evaluation

## Things to Celebrate

There may be more than 3!

1

2

3

## Action Points

There should be no more than 3 action points.

1

2

3