

# School & Church

50 ideas for growing together



*50 ideas for your church to partner with your local school. There are many more ideas than just these and there are wonderful examples of school-church links around the Diocese. Do let us know what you do to serve children's best interests in your local church and school.*


- 37  Recognise and support church members who are involved in school life.
- 38  Include learning about schools in the church teaching programme.
- 39  Find or make opportunities in the church diary to invite children, families and staff to church services.
- 40  Find ways of listening to children's perspectives of the world, church and the Christian faith.
- 41  Plan an annual Parish/School Day where parish members visit and plan activities in school.
- 42  Give school leavers a Bible or Christian book to mark their transition to their next school.
- 43  Hold children's holiday and mid-week clubs at school.


## School visits to church

- 44  Encourage and promote school visits to church.
- 45  Identify key features of the church that would be of interest to children and to the school.
- 46  Ensure when classes visit the church they are warmly welcomed.
- 47  Enable children and staff to meet the living church community as well as see the churchyard and church building.
- 48  Make imaginative use of the church building for history, RE, art and other subjects.
- 49  Devise attractive written guides for children and teachers to use when visiting the church.
- 50  Create a prayer labyrinth in the churchyard or in the church.


## Steve Kersys, Children's & Families Ministry Adviser


Support, resourcing, encouragement, advice and training for those leading, organising, helping or supporting children's & families ministry in the Diocese of Chelmsford.


 07541 240607

 [steve@saltshaker.org.uk](mailto:steve@saltshaker.org.uk)

 [www.saltshaker.org.uk](http://www.saltshaker.org.uk)

 @SKskersys

 [www.blipfoto.com/CWA365](http://www.blipfoto.com/CWA365)

 [www.saltshakerblog.org.uk](http://www.saltshakerblog.org.uk)



The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  
Diocese of Chelmsford

## 50 ways to support your local schools .....

- 1  Establish a prayer/support group for the school.
- 2  Pray regularly on Sundays for the school staff and children.
- 3  Provide ongoing pastoral support for children through chaplaincy and/or mentoring or linking with other agencies who can provide these services.
- 4  Provide pastoral support for staff at times and in ways that are appropriate for them in their context.

### Joint activities

- 5  Encourage regular flow of news through a school page in the Parish magazine and through church contributions to the school newsletter.
- 6  Encourage schools and churches to work together on global links.
- 7  Hold an informal mid-week service, chat time, or toddler club in the hall for mums/dads and carers.
- 8  Establish a holiday club or play-scheme either in school or in church.
- 9  Organise a Christmas Toy or Shoe-Box Appeal.
- 10  Create space for teaching staff to reflect and take stock of their work and for congregations to reflect on the theological aspects of Education.
- 11  Plan joint worship occasions between church and school in both places.

### School activities

- 12  Encourage the congregation to attend and support school events.
- 13  Bake cakes for the school staff to enjoy at break times.
- 14  Encourage parish musicians to support music and worship in school.
- 15  Offer a skill such as sports or music coaching or helping with readers.
- 16  Work with children to create items for use in church, eg altar frontal, banners, vestments, nativity displays etc.
- 17  Help with school outings.
- 18  Contribute RE, collective worship resources, Bibles, artefacts and Christian literature to the school.

- 19  Develop an assembly team for leading school or class worship.
- 20  Hold special services like Christmas, Easter or a leavers' service at the end of term.
- 21  Help with RE lessons and other subjects.
- 22  Offer to run clubs before school, at lunchtimes or after school.

### Church activities

- 23  Engender a culture of affirmation for the work of the teachers and staff.
- 24  Have regular displays of children's work in church.
- 25  Invite schools to display artwork, provide music, or attend specific services.
- 26  Ensure there is a regular and frequent 'school' item on the PCC agenda.
- 27  Include school news, articles etc from and for children in the parish magazine.
- 28  Include schools in outreach or pastoral plans in the community. You can do this through school/community surveys.
- 29  Plan joint worship occasions between church and school in both places such as Education Sunday, Harvest, Christmas etc.
- 30  Establish a joint parish/school choir or music group, particularly for one-off events and services.
- 31  Hold a 'welcome service' for a new head-teacher.
- 32  Involve the head-teacher in a new incumbent's institution service.
- 33  Invite children who learn instruments to play in church services.
- 34  Establish a core of hymns, songs and liturgy that is used in both church and school worship.
- 35  Plan a day of workshops in church for children: Maundy Thursday, Shrove Tuesday, Christingle etc.
- 36  Initiate an 'adopt-a-class/teacher' scheme in the church.