

## Involving the Church Congregation in the life of the school

*All the believers were one in heart and mind...they shared everything that they had. Acts 4:32*

The ideas below suggest some ways that the members of the church can share in and contribute to the life of the school and really see the school as part of the church community.

-Invite the church to be involved in particular school projects or activities week. Find out the gifts of those in the parish and see how they can be used in the school. For example working on an environmental project or building a spiritual garden, learning new craft skills, being involved in sports activities.

-Identify any religious artefacts or books that the school needs and ask if the church can help to provide these.

-Explore the possibility of the church running an after school or lunchtime club or ask for volunteers to help existing clubs run.

Work together to increase pupil 's understanding of the developing world through the diocesan link with the Sudan.

If your local church has a youth worker they may be able to offer detached youth work at lunch-times or mentoring to students etc.

--Invite the incumbent or other suitable church members to be involved in delivering collective worship. Perhaps explore, with the church, the possibility of using Open the Book to deliver collective worship – see [www.openthebook.net](http://www.openthebook.net) for more details



-Run a Journey's Day with the parish going into the school to help them run a cross curricular theme day based on Journeys in the Bible followed by parish activity days and an all age worship service.

For further ideas, support or advice in building up and sustaining good links between the parish and the school contact Barbara Meardon ( Diocesan Children 's Adviser ) or Lizzie Whitbread ( Diocesan Adviser for Work with Young People ).

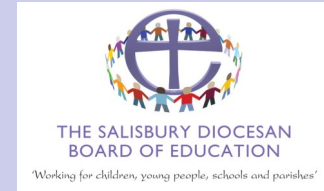
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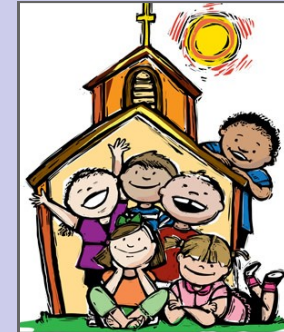
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## Building links between your school and parish



Dear Lord,

There are many gifts,

But the same Spirit.

There are many ways to serve,

But the same Lord.

There are many ways of working,

But the same God at work in all.

There is one body, one Spirit, one hope,

One Lord, one faith, one Baptism.

There is one God, Father of all and in all,  
And one Son who went to be with the Father.

There is one Spirit which gives gifts:

Some to serve in one way, others in another.

So that all can work together

To build up his body,

And to grow in the full life of Christ. Amen.

## Board of Education

The Board of Education are committed to supporting Headteachers, all staff, governors, local incumbents and congregations in building links between the school and the church community.

We believe that creating opportunities for the parish and school to build a strong relationship is beneficial for the children, the school and the church. We hope that this leaflet helps you to think creatively about the possibilities that there are for developing strong links between your local church and the school.

## Communication and Prayer

*In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6*

-Ask the church to regularly pray for the school and let them know about specific things that are happening, e.g. events, trips, exams, new staff.

[www.prayforschools.org](http://www.prayforschools.org) may help them in this.

-Provide regular articles for the parish magazine about what is happening at the school or have a group of pupils who produce a termly newsletter that can be sent to the church.

-Pray as a school for the church and the people in the community

-Have a prayer book or tree with prayer requests that can be shared with the church congregation

-Foundation Governors can act as a key point of contact between the church and the school and may be able to help facilitate ways to bring the church and the school closer.

## Visiting the Church as a School:

*'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me' Mark 9:37*

Use the church for collective worship

-Have curriculum visits to the church, these could be linked to RE, DT, History, Art and Citizenship.

-Ask for suitable church members as well as the incumbent to be present to welcome the pupils, give information, answer questions and to explain what their faith means to them if appropriate to the visit.

-Church members/clergy can contribute to RE lessons in school as well as through visits to church.



-Hold end of term services or special events around festivals at the church or be involved in services, perhaps occasional All Age Worship services or as head teacher discuss with the incumbent their plans for Education Sunday and attend if possible or do something special for the patronal festival if the school and church share the same name.



-Work with the church to put on reflective days at key festivals, perhaps using the Experience Festivals Series - an imaginative approach to help children and young people experience the Christian festivals through the year using, on each occasion, six easy to assemble, interactive stations set up in different parts of the church - available from [www.gloucester.anglican.org/resources/jfish](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/resources/jfish).



-Work with the church to put on a Quiet Day using 'Let the Flame Burn Brighter'. The pack contains full instructions for running a quiet day based on the story of Elijah or use 'Let the Children Come' an imaginative resource for schools and churches that explores eight of the UNCRC articles from a Christian perspective. It is based on Jesus' teachings and links well to values and citizenship education, further details at [www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/publication](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/publication) If possible share display pictures and any work the pupils produce in both the school and church after the event.



