Support for Work with Children and Young People

Being a Christian means I am part of a community and people care about me. I know I am not alone.

Leaders should be kind, understanding and friendly.

We want to share our opinions and discuss issues not be told what to think.

The Church should not avoid talking about racism and sexuality. It should not be prejudice.

Religion and Faith creates war, divides society and has caused the refugee crisis.

I worry about doing well at school so that I can get a good job. There is lots of pressure to do well.

TRANSFORMING LEADERSHIP
TRANSFORMING LIVES

Renewing HOPE
Pray • Serve • Grow

Comments from children and young people across Salisbury Diocese Winter 2016
We want Salisbury Diocese to be a place where children and young people know that God loves them. Where they are full members of our church communities able to build the foundations for lifelong faith. Whatever their beliefs we want them to be empowered to bring about positive change in the world and equipped to serve others.

Working together to achieve this.

We want to work alongside you, our local church communities, to support you, so we can achieve this together in a journey where we deepen our own discipleship as we work with children and young people. We have identified 6 key areas to work through that we feel will help to achieve this:

1. **Reach out**, listen to and serve children and young people where they are, taking seriously their concerns and passions.

2. **Grow** relationships between **parishes and schools** to promote the well being of children and young people.

3. Ministers to **grow teams** able to listen to, engage with and lead work with young people 11 to 18 years.

4. Opportunities for children and young people to **grow** in faith and consider their vocation which fosters **life long discipleship** and enable them to cocreate the life of the church.

5. Intentional **communication** that helps to **serve** and resource parishes. Placing children and young people on the agenda to ensure that a consideration for them is embedded across all aspects of the church’s life.

6. **Enable key leaders**, to grow and deliver sustainable, creative opportunities for children and young people and lead diverse teams that involve children and young people in decision making.

We will offer packages of support to church communities to enable you to develop or deepen your response to one of the areas of need, as identified through consultation with children and young people in Winter 2016. To routinely involve children and young people in decision making; deliver mentoring schemes; develop intergenerational worship; provide issue based discussion opportunities for young people; prepare young people for confirmation; increase the confidence of adults to work with 11 - 18 year olds and set up and host prayer spaces in schools. All support will be developed with you to ensure that it meets local needs.
How will working together work in practice?

Have a conversation with DBE adviser about the opportunities and possibilities for developing or deepening work with CYP in response to the needs of children and young people in your local context.

Together talk with children and young people and other relevant parties (eg schools, community groups, congregation other local church).

With the adviser draw up a plan that details the desired outcomes, the method that will be explored and implemented and the specific package of support the adviser will give to help deliver this.

Adviser delivers agreed support to assist the church community to increase the quality of engagement with children and young people in the context planned.

Evaluate the impact of the work and plan next steps with the adviser so that the church community is able to sustain the work without adviser support.

Members of the church community to share their learning and ideas with at least one other parish to support them to deliver something similar in their context.
What Might This Look Like? Some Possible examples

Support for you to work with local young people to set up a campaign about an issue they care about and involve the wider church to support them.

Support the provision of a prayer space in a local secondary school and use this as a way to increase engagement with secondary pupils and explore the possibility on a local and diocesan level to develop chaplaincy in the school type of post.

Work with a school and church community to introduce a restorative justice ethos embedded in Christian values led by children and young people in the church community.

Train and support volunteers to mentor children and young people who are struggling at school or may find the transition to secondary school or college difficult.

Explore the benefits of having a chaplaincy in the school and work with the school, local church communities and the diocese to seek ways to provide chaplaincy.

Work with church teams to enable the development of the use of prayer spaces.

Support for you to work with local children and young people to involve them in decision making in your area and enable their voice to be heard.

Develop and innovate with familiar materials, e.g. “Journeys”, “Experience Days”, to build creative parish - schools relationships.

What Now?
If you want to take the next step to explore together innovative and creative ways to improve the churches engagement with children and young people and deepen the opportunities for children and young people to explore spirituality, then get in touch with the Diocesan Board of Education and speak to the Children and Young People’s Advisers

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