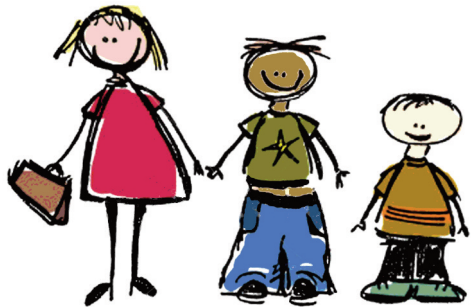


People from the local church can work with schools by:

- Assisting in the classroom or with reading groups
- Developing an assembly team and/or leading or helping with a school or class act of worship
- Holding a special service like Christmas, Easter or a leavers' service at the end of term
- Helping with RE lessons and other subjects
- Offering a skill such as sports or music coaching
- Helping with class outings or administration
- Visiting or helping at school events
- See ministry to the school as a church responsibility - not just the job of the clergy!
- Running a 'Christian Union' type club in the lunch hour
- Holding holiday, mid-week and after-school clubs on school premises
- Having an informal mid-week service, chat time, or toddler club in the hall for mums and carers
- Give schools leavers a youth Bible or Christian book etc to mark their moving on
- Organise a Christmas Toy or Shoe-Box Appeal
- Using the school building for services if it is more accessible/user-friendly than the church building
- And there is always being a school governor!



Department for Children & Young People

The Department for Children and young people aims to provide an extensive range of services, training and support for those who work with children and young people in the Diocese of Bristol.

All staff members are committed to developing and strengthening the Church's mission with children and young people and promoting a vision of education under-pinned by Christian values.

Whether this is in a School setting or Church environment, children and young people will be nurtured in communities of wholeness with Christ at the Centre:

- *Individuals will be helped to recognise their own uniqueness and worth*
- *Excellence and enjoyment will be evident in all learning*
- *Children and young people will be encouraged on their spiritual journey*
- *Christ will be revealed to all*

Our role, work and core activities include:

- Supporting, encouraging and resourcing head teachers and staff, governors, clergy, employed workers, lay ministry and volunteers
- Providing a range of formal and informal training for all those who work with children and young people based on local and school needs
- Advising and overseeing selection, recruitment and employment of head teachers, staff, paid workers, student placements and gap-year volunteers.
- Working on behalf of schools as statutory partners with LA's and having representation on the statutory bodies of each LA
- Maintaining "face to face" contact with children, young people and adults through events, consultations and visits to individual groups and schools
- Communicating through a variety of reports, publications and IT including; speaking engagements, presentations, internal and external committees and leading worship in a variety of settings
- Engaging in, and helping shape partnerships, policies and politics:
 - *Keeping track of Government and Church legislation*
 - *Shaping and implementing policy*
 - *Working in partnership with others service providers locally, regionally and nationally*

For further help and advice please contact:

Department for Children & Young People

0117 906 0100

www.candyp.org

All Saints Centre, 1 All Saints Court, Bristol BS1 1JN

School AND Church



Growing Together
in faith and service
in the community



Diocese of Bristol

Department for Children & Young People

School & Church

“ Church schools stand at the heart of the Church’s mission to the nation ”

The Way Ahead - Church of England schools in the new millennium

If we ask the question, 'Where do we find children?' the immediate answer is always, 'In school.' Schools are made for children. They also have teachers, non-teaching staff, Governors, parents, older and younger siblings and so on – and visitors on special occasions. Even a small village school will be in touch with at least 300 people through the families of everyone who attends or works at it.

When Lord Dearing visited Bristol Diocese several years ago, he was moved when a Headteacher said; 'Our school doesn't admit pupils, it admits families'.

Churches and schools have a great opportunity, of working together through their contacts with families:

- to listen to their concerns
- to support them when help is needed
- to encourage them in working together for the community

Schools provide many opportunities for local churches to provide service. There are far more than the vicar or minister taking an occasional act of worship or being on the Governing body, important though these ministries are.

We hope this leaflet will inspire churches and schools as they work together to create communities of wholeness with Christ at the centre.



The Church can support the local schools by:

- Praying regularly on Sundays for the school's staff and children
 - Establish a prayer/support group for the school
 - Encouraging the congregation to support local school events
 - Inviting schools to display artwork, provide music, or attend specific services
 - Holding children's activities such as holiday and mid-week clubs at school
 - Reporting on work with schools to the church council and at the AGM
 - Include the school community regularly in intercessions
 - Include school news, articles etc from and for children in the parish magazine
 - Providing ongoing pastoral support to staff and pupils
 - Including schools in any outreach or pastoral plans in the community
 - Baking lovely cakes for the school staff to enjoy at break times!
 - Plan joint worship occasions between church and school in both places
 - Involve the school in special service and events: Education Sunday, Harvest, Christmas etc
 - Establish a joint parish/school choir or music group
 - Invite the children who learn instruments to play in church services
 - Encourage parish musicians to support music and worship in school
 - Establish a core of hymns, songs and liturgy that is used in both church and school worship
 - Use Education Sunday to celebrate the local schools and the work of education
- Involve the headteacher in a new incumbent's institution service
 - Have a 'welcome service' for a new headteacher
 - Develop joint collective worship teams with other churches to visit local schools
 - Plan a day of workshops in church for children: Maunday Thursday, Shrove Tuesday, Christingle etc
 - Making imaginative use of the church building for history, R.E, art and other subjects. Devise an attractive guide to the church to support this
 - Involve church members in supporting history, RE and citizenship
 - Develop the churchyard for ecology and natural history projects
 - Encourage schools and churches to work together on worldwide links: Traidcraft, Mission societies, Diocesan link with Uganda, other schools in Europe
 - Involve young people in volunteering/community projects with support from church members: music, art, drama events etc
 - Support Cathedral Education Days by sending a group of children - the church could help with transport costs and volunteer helpers
 - Contribute to RE, collective worship resources, Bibles, artifacts and Christian literature, for the school library

