

# WHAT IS THE MOST HELPFUL THING A CHURCH HAS DONE FOR YOUR SCHOOL?

- Keen, active governors & volunteers.
- Working together on social action projects.
- Leading school services/CW/prayer spaces/Easter Experience etc
- Supervision/teaching at lunch clubs
- Providing experiences in church
- Being actively involved in school life
- Supporting RE
- Running Youth Alpha
- Offering use of the church building

- Support given following death within school community.
- Investing in personal relationships.
- Supporting families in jointly caring for community, especially those in need emotionally, financially and spiritually.
- Being present on the gate

- Communion for a small group of staff
- A constant source of support
- Being present in the staffroom

# HOW COULD A LOCAL CHURCH BEST SERVE YOU PERSONALLY IN YOUR ROLE?

- Provide a confidential, listening ear
- Time to talk and a person to talk to
- Flexible availability for us to work together
- Giving a dedicated time each week to be present in school
- Be a supportive friend
- Pray for me
- Informal meetings to sustain me as a leader – I would value someone to share the load with

- Spiritual mentoring
- Taking on a governor role
- Being an active voice in the school community
- Pastoral concern and support for staff
- Active support in building community

- Curriculum support
- SIAMS support
- Help using their facilities
- Provide a representative to meet regularly with the HT and facilitate collaboration
- Find time to prioritise school in their working week
- See our school as an extension of the church a part of the whole community
- Work together to include clergy and congregation in the School Development Plan

# HOW COULD A LOCAL CHURCH BEST SERVE YOUR STAFF?

- Pray for them
- Send in cakes when we're having a tricky time
- Offer a listening ear
- Be present in school and get to know them
- Pastoral support
- Give the time to build relationships with them
- Listen to them and pray for their pupils
- Encourage them

- Supporting them in preparing pupils for Collective Worship/church services
- Chaplaincy for staff
- Lead staff prayer groups

- Provide adults to listen to readers - support the work they are doing in class
- Help with RE - not needing to lead it, but being willing to chat through planning or support in curriculum
- Have a focus with them on the CofE Vision for Education
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# HOW COULD A LOCAL CHURCH BEST SUPPORT YOUR PUPILS' LEARNING?

- Be in school and get to know them
- Provide visits and visit them
- Know what they are learning about!
- Talk to them about they're learning – listen to what they say
- Tell the church congregation what they are learning about – could the church join them in learning about something?
- Pray for the learning that is happening in school
- Advocating for the school and pupils in the church and wider community

- Provide opportunities for discussions and questions
- Collective Worship
- Local History
- Get involved in what they are already learning about – read the curriculum and chat to Curriculum Leads in school about where specific people from church can be involved.
- Networking opportunities especially in Career Education
- Support for special days – being an extra pair of hands/buddy for things like parents' eves, summer fair, etc.
- Be a person who comes to watch assemblies etc for those children who don't have families attending

- Volunteer reading support
- Get to know the RE curriculum really well
- Help with RE – not needing to lead it, but being willing to chat through planning or support in curriculum
- Have a focus with them on the CofE Vision for Education
- Demonstrating diversity in Christianity
- Support PSHE curriculum
- Volunteer times table practice

# WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL?

- Shortage of time
- Shortage of people
- Relying on clergy to do everything – lack of involvement from the whole church
- Churches not working together
- No church people on governing body
- Changes in leadership/staffing
- Not having a church representative
- Interregnums (but this could be an opportunity if the lay members of church were more engaged)
- Where church and school don't see themselves as important to each other

- Church wants us to do more things but the curriculum time is so packed. We need a willingness to be involved in what we're already doing
- Not understanding the distinction between church and school
- Lack of expertise within the church/clergy about school

- Confidence of people to volunteer
- Practical things like heating and lighting the church
- Geography, accessibility and transport

# ONE THING YOU'D LIKE TO SAY TO YOUR LOCAL CHURCH LEADER?

- Thank you for what you do
- Be visible and 'out there'
- Be confident in the fact that we do need each other
- Young people are the church of NOW
- Please be part of the school and team
- Hello! We are here! Have you noticed us?
- What can we do together for the good of the whole community?
- We couldn't do what we do without you.
- You have an open invitation into our school – be prepared to take the time to build real relationships
- Please prioritise our school
- We want to offer the very best for our children and we think you do too!
- Think creatively – there are so many ways to be involved
- Ask us what we need! Don't assume you know.
- Be prepared to do things that aren't overtly preaching – being on the school gate, supporting a lunch club or giving a bit of time 1:1 to the Head can be amazing 'Christian witness'. It's not all about RE and Collective Worship.
- We are experts in teaching, you don't have to be. What skills and gifts and experiences do you have?