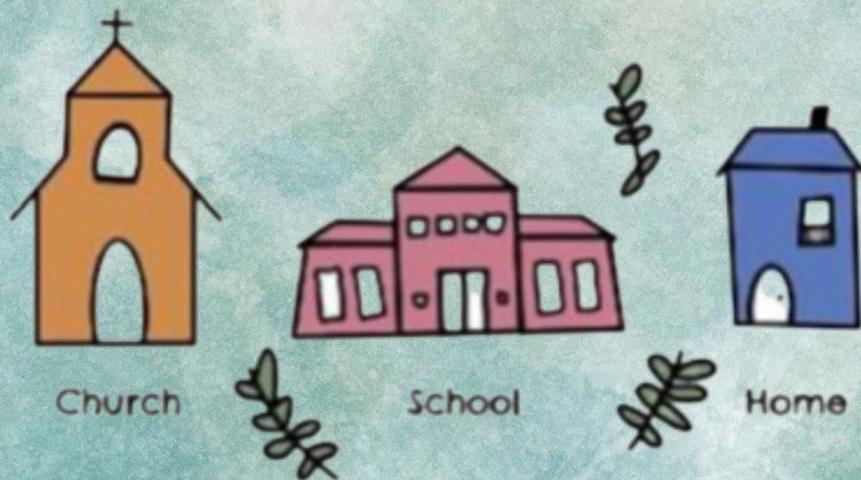


Growing Faith

School & Church

Partnership

Award



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF DURHAM

CONTEXT

This award is linked directly to the national Church of England's work around the Growing Faith Adventure. Growing Faith is the vision set by the House of Bishops to ensure a national commitment to achieve a significant culture change within the church so that every aspect of mission and ministry is seen through the lens of what it means for ministry with children, young people and households. It is a vision where children, young people and households are coming to faith, growing in discipleship and confidently contributing to the Kingdom of God through the community of faith.

By working together in partnership, schools and churches have a huge part to play in the lives of all our children. The Growing Faith initiative acknowledges that Christian faith is discovered, formed and grown in community. The intersections of church, household and school are ideal places for encountering Christ and growing faith with children and young people, not least because every child and young person lives in the intersections and moves between the spheres. Faith is nurtured through interactions between people, and further enriched when this happens across generations.

AIM OF THE AWARD

Is to ensure the existence of an authentic partnership between school and the church in the following six areas:

- ✓ Vision and Leadership
- ✓ Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
- ✓ Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy
- ✓ Community and Living Well Together
- ✓ Dignity and Respect
- ✓ The impact of collective worship

These strands mirror six of the seven strands found in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools – SIAMS. However the Church of England's vision is for all schools not just church establishments. Their broad reaching vision is titled 'Deeply Christian serving the common good' and speaks of human flourishing for all.

"Our vision embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children and young people."

It is a vision of education based on fullness of life (John 10v10) and seeing every individual reach their potential, educating the whole person.

"We are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way which enhances their lives."

It is imperative that our schools and churches work together to create these opportunities for honest encounters while also offering support for engagement with faith at home too.

PROCESS

- ✓ The incumbent (or appropriate church representative), Head teacher, Governing Body and PCC should agree that the school and church apply for the award.
- ✓ A nominated link person is required who will co-ordinate the process with the PCC/Church and the school, engaging others to assist where necessary: school staff member, child, parent, PCC member/church warden etc.
- ✓ The initial audit should be completed in all areas signposting to supporting evidence and examples for each of the six sections.
- ✓ Following the initial audit, a simple action plan should be prepared acknowledging any gaps in the partnership and detailing plans to improve in the particular area.
- ✓ Once the audit and action plan are complete the Diocesan Growing Faith Team can offer support and guidance in meeting any new objectives.
- ✓ As soon as the church and school mutually agree that the actions have been fulfilled – supporting evidence and an evaluation should be completed and emailed to the Diocesan Growing Faith Team.
- ✓ If the team considers that the church and school have fulfilled the criteria a recommendation for recognition will be made to the Bishop and a letter and certificates will be sent to both parties.
- ✓ The Award will be valid for three years.

Application:

School Details:

School Name:

Address:

Head teacher:

Contact person:

Email:

Church Details:

Church Name:

Address:

Incumbent:

Contact person:

Email:

As soon as this form is completed and all supporting evidence is in place, the application can be made by post or email to:

Catherine Simpson, Growing Faith Adviser and School Chaplaincy Development;
Diocese of Durham, Cuthbert House, Stonebridge, Durham, DH1 3RY

catherine.simpson@durham.anglican.org



AUDIT

Please use the questions as a guide and simply signpost to evidence through bullet points.

✓ Vision and Leadership

- How has the school and church worked together specifically on the Christian vision and associated values?
- How does their shared vision both reflect the local context of the school and the church?
- How does the school and the church ensure they keep up to date with the latest thinking in Christian Education and maximise their joint engagement with this? I.e. Growing Faith.

✓ Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills

- What opportunities does the partnership offer to ensure that the curriculum and extra-curriculum opportunities meet all learners' spiritual needs? i.e. RE support, Messy Church, Open the Book, After School clubs
- Is there additional provision for those pupils who have chosen to follow the Christian tradition?
- How does the partnership encourage a level of spiritual literacy?

✓ Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy

- What opportunities has the partnership provided to engage in social action for change? i.e. locally, nationally, globally
- How does the partnership offer character development specifically as part of Collective Worship? I.e. covering topics such as resilience, aspiration, perseverance.
- What opportunities do pupils have to ask BIG QUESTIONS?

✓ Community and Living Well Together

- How does the relationship between the school and the church demonstrate a sense community and living well together? I.e. community engagement, shared experiences.
- How are School and Church through this partnership sharing ideas with the Homes of the pupils / children involved?
- How does the partnership manage difference – disagreeing well?

✓ Dignity and Respect

- How does the partnership create an environment that embraces difference, dignity and respect?
- How does the partnership evaluate policies and practice to ensure all are treated with dignity and respect?
- How does the partnership listen to the voice of children and young people in a meaningful way that results in change?

✓ The impact of collective worship

- How do the school and church work together to offer high quality collective worship?
- How is the impact evaluated?
- How are the children supported to lead and take an active part in worship?

AUDIT

Please use the questions as a guide and simply signpost to evidence through bullet points.

✓ Vision and Leadership

- *How has the school and church worked together specifically on the Christian vision and associated values?*
- *How does their shared vision both reflect the local context of the school and the church?*
- *How does the school and the church ensure they keep up to date with the latest thinking in Christian Education and maximise their joint engagement with this? I.e. Growing Faith.*

✓ Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills

- *What opportunities does the partnership offer to ensure that the curriculum and extra-curriculum opportunities meet all learners' spiritual needs? i.e. RE support, Messy Church, Open the Book, After School clubs*
- *Is there additional provision for those pupils who have chosen to follow the Christian tradition?*
- *How does the partnership encourage a level of spiritual literacy?*

✓ Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy

- *What opportunities has the partnership provided to engage in social action for change? i.e. locally, nationally, globally*
- *How does the partnership offer character development specifically as part of Collective Worship? I.e. covering topics such as resilience, aspiration, perseverance.*
- *What opportunities do pupils have to ask BIG QUESTIONS?*

✓ Community and Living Well Together

- *How does the relationship between the school and the church demonstrate a sense community and living well together? I.e. community engagement, shared experiences.*
- *How does the partnership support positive mental health?*
- *How does the partnership manage difference – disagreeing well?*

✓ Dignity and Respect

- *How does the partnership create an environment that embraces difference, dignity and respect?*
- *How does the partnership evaluate policies and practice to ensure all are treated with dignity and respect?*
- *How does the partnership listen to the voice of children and young people in a meaningful way that results in change?*

✓ The impact of collective worship

- *How do the school and church work together to offer high quality collective worship?*
- *How is the impact evaluated?*
- *How are the children supported to lead and take an active part in worship?*

ACTION PLAN

Please complete any actions below where you have identified gaps in your audit in the plan below to ensure you have enough evidence to meet all of the necessary criteria for all six strands.

- ✓ Vision and Leadership

- ✓ Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills

- ✓ Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy

- ✓ Community and Living Well Together

- ✓ Dignity and Respect

- ✓ The impact of collective worship