



SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
Developing Church of England Education



TWELVE WAYS FOR ...

Twelve Ways for
Parish Churches and Schools
to Live Well Together to
‘Serve the Common Good’



Updated Sept 2023



Twelve Ways Your Parish Church Can Engage With the Local School Community.

1. Relationships - connect with the Headteacher, staff and school through service e.g. donuts and homemade cakes for the staff room. Offer to read with the children.
2. Prayer - ask the school what they would like pray for e.g. nervous students at exam times, school trips and any other school event. Let them know that they are prayed for as part of your intercessions.
3. Assemblies and Collective Worship - offer to lead gatherings on a regular basis is a wonderful way to engage children with the Christian faith. They can be lead by children and young people workers, volunteers or Vicars. [Spinnaker](#) and [Open the Book](#) offer assemblies, RE Resources and training to support with this. [Sparkfish](#) also provide RE Events, Reflective spaces and Mentoring in the Reigate, Redhill, Merstham area. Consider working with the school to create [a prayer and reflective space](#) for the children or young people.
4. Get on board - serve as a school Governor or, if a Church school, a Foundation Governor. This will make a tangible difference to any local school.
5. Musical connections - invite pupils to join a Children's or Youth Choir. Encourage parish musicians to support music in school and invite children who are learning instruments to play them in church.
6. Work collaboratively in caring for God's creation - volunteer to help with the school garden or eco projects, set up an eco club at church and invite pupils to join.
7. Work experience - encourage your congregation to think about opportunities they could offer as work experience for older students. It can help young people make future career choices. Offer volunteering opportunities for those students taking part in Duke of Edinburgh awards.
8. Church visits - part of the RE curriculum may include visits to places of worship. Invite them to your church, offer activities and refreshments as well as supporting the lesson aims. Run a [CSI Easter](#) workshop for key stage 2 pupils.
9. Invitations to church events - make or find appropriate opportunities in the church event diary to which pupils and their families may be sent special invitations, e.g. Holiday Clubs, Messy Church, Christingle, Harvest time etc.
10. Celebrate the school - 'Education Sunday' is the second Sunday in September. Use the church services to celebrate and pray for all those in your congregation who work in schools. There are lots of resources online. Make the local school a regular agenda item at your PCC meetings. This could include inviting members of the school community to the meeting to share an element of their work.
11. Informal visits - consider starting an after-school youth drop-in, offering a safe space for young people to meet enjoy food and activities.
12. Partner with Christian organisations to support your local school; [Operation Forgiveness](#) - early intervention knife crime initiative delivered by local churches to local schools, [KICK](#) - sport with Christian values, [TLG](#) - Make a Lunch and Mentoring, [XLP](#) - Mentoring & Youth Activities.



Twelve Ways Your School Can Engage With Your Parish Church.

1. Relationships - partner with a church on local issues of social justice and courageous advocacy, such as Food Banks, homelessness or environmental projects, harnessing eco-church/school/diocese opportunities, etc.
This can link to the Church of England Five Marks of Mission.
2. Pray for the local clergy, church and parish in school Collective Worship.
3. Collective worship - hold regular 'open' Collective Worship occasions in school, to which adults from the parish are invited. Invite a speaker from the church for Collective Worship or presentation evenings. *(Make sure you give them clear guidelines.)*
4. Governors - advertise vacant positions on your governing board to the local church.
5. Consider holding regular special services or concerts in the Parish church building, such as Christmas Carol services, Easter celebrations or the Patronal Festival of the Saint your school is dedicated to.
6. Offer to provide an item for a church service, such as a drama sketch, liturgical dance, musical item or offering for Harvest Festival.
7. Ensure regular class visits for all year groups to your Parish church to explore the symbolism and functionality of the building along with the life of the Parish.
8. Send a curriculum overview to the Parish church to invite them to consider how they could support the teaching - this could include religious education (RE) and the wider curriculum.
9. Ask the Parish's children and youth worker (or the person responsible for youth and children's ministry in the Parish) to come in and share what events and opportunities happen in the area each week.
10. Take part in 'Thank your Vicar week' each year: www.stlukeshealthcare.org.uk
11. Find out who edits the Parish magazine, website or social media accounts or newsletter and send them 'good news' items from your school to share.
12. Plan an annual Parish/School Day on which parish members visit and plan activities in school.

The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education and the Southwark Diocesan Children and Young People Team works in partnership with Church of England Schools and Parishes across the Diocese.

Further information and support can be obtained from our websites

www.education.southwark.anglican.org

<https://southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/mission/children-youth/>