


Much of this resource has concentrated on how parishes can support the school but what about projects that you can do together, support each other, and giving the school, 6th form or Further Educational colleges a chance to work in the wider community and perhaps giving you extra hands and feet to help you!

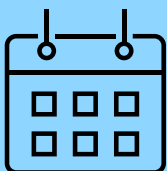
**Here are some ideas to discuss with the school.**

## SHARE RESOURCES

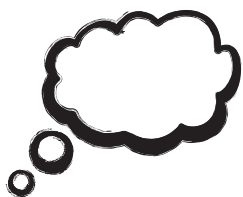
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- A large, bold black checkmark is positioned to the left of the list of ideas.
- Share newsletters or magazines.
  - Share expertise across a range of topics, needs, and age groups, for example, ICT, gardening.
  - Share buildings, car parking.
  - Vicar and Headteacher book in some pastoral interaction time for each other.
  - Include 'Church' as part of the welcome/induction of a new Headteacher and their commissioning/affirmation service.
  - School to be part of the welcome for a new incumbent.
  - Invite the Head-teacher or a governor to PCC to 'report on school and community issues.
  - PCC meetings include items on school links.
  - Fill Governor & Foundation Governor places.
  - Recognise and applaud governance as part of Christian service or vocation.
  - Talk to one another and find out how you can work together, perhaps by having a group that meets to discuss joint working. This group could include pupils.
  - Find out about the gifts and skills in each community and use these to serve each other.
  - Learn and sing hymns and songs that are sung in each place.



- Used shared language, for example the introductory words to worship, the same version of the Lord's Prayer, a joint prayer written by church and school.
- Organise a prayer group to pray for the school and churches in the area.
- Send special invitations to church members or to pupils and their families to attend one another's events.



- Joint school and church choir.
- Shared charitable and community projects.
- Share training in appropriate topics.
- Include regular items on worship and parish links in Headteacher reports to governors and in school improvement plans.
- Liaise over dates and the planning of big events and consider having some joint one, for example a toy sale, a Christmas charity appeal, a Christian Aid event.
- Plan joint activities for special days in the parish calendar: Education Sunday, Easter, Christmas.
- Work together to produce activities and resources for when children visit the church.



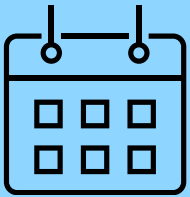
- Serving in structures & governance, develop a locally agreed protocol to link school, congregation, and PCC.
- Share time and cost of youth or children's worker or Chaplain.
- Invite the school to be involved in clergy appointments, where appropriate
- Undertake reviews of environmentally friendly practices in each place.
- Undertake a joint project such as a link with a parish/school overseas such as the Birmingham link with Malawi.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship is something that schools love parishes to be involved with as well as it being something we often have the skills to create and run. These are some ideas that you can ask the school to help you with.



- Ask the school for feedback about any of the collective worship services you run to learn and improve.
- Make sure that you are fully aware of your role and how worship plays a part in the school community.
- Ask what the school's needs, hopes, and expectations are for you as visiting speakers, listeners, and storytellers.
- Ask the school to pray for you, the parish, through the annual cycle of seasons, events, and any specific local occurrences.



- Together school and parish can make a year plan of when members of the parish could come in for visits, assemblies, special occasions, and when they could share information about their special events, services, and clubs.
- Leading engaging and creative collective worship regularly in school and or church, for and with children and staff is a wonderful way to be made known and trusted in the school community.
- So therefore it's wise to gather a team that will regularly create and lead collective worship in school.
- Make sure you use appropriate delivery techniques; be aware of language, themes, choosing stories, agenda/values of the person delivering, and how appropriate these are in whole School, Key Stage/year groups, or Classroom settings.

## TRANSITIONS

Supporting children and parents through times of transition can be an important and valuable role that parish members can offer help with. Scripture Union offers two resources.

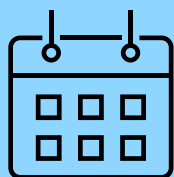


- 'Get Ready, Go!' is a resource for children starting primary school. A version for parents is also available.
- 'It's Your Move' is for those moving from primary to secondary school. Both can be found at [www.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk)

Here are some extra resources that help children transition from children to youth ministry.



- Offer a group or event for parents to discuss issues and offer peer support through times of transition.



- Change the times your children move up to different groups in church to Easter instead of September, making it one less change for children and young people at the critical school year change.
- Offer prayer spaces in schools around the subject of transition and change, see the Prayer Spaces Flex module for the full school's prayer space pack.
- If it's a Church of England school, attend the Year 6 worship events at the cathedral organised by the education department every year, encourage your school to join in. If not offer to help with the leavers' assembly at your school.



## THE TAKEOVER CHALLENGE

What about having a go at The Takeover Challenge. "This puts children and young people into real-life decision-making positions in organisations. Children gain valuable insight and gain experience of a workplace, while organisations benefit from a fresh perspective on their work." [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/learn-more/takeover-challenge](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/learn-more/takeover-challenge)

If you plan to have a go at this, ask the children and young people where they would like to 'Takeover' for a day.

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You could then invite them to:

- Plan and lead worship in church or school.
- Be involved in a PCC or Governors Meeting.
- Lead a prayer space or Open the book.
- Take part in planning a Messy/muddy Church that they have become part of.

Think about spaces where you make decisions and where you could enable a 'Takeover' to happen.



# THE YOUNG LEADERS AWARD

The Arch Bishop of York Youth Trust runs a Young Leaders programme called 'The Young Leaders Award' (YLA). It is a programme offering young people an opportunity to engage in new learning experiences, growing in leadership, character, and key life skills, and discover the benefits of helping others. As part of the Award, pupils are empowered to 'be the change you want to see', taking action and serving others in their community. Pupils take part in several different challenges, the final one being a Community Action project in their local area.

The community action project could be developed alongside the Church School's church, so involving children, parents, and parishioners. Once the project is completed, awards are made to the children.

The presentation could be made in a service in the parish church where parents, children, and parishioners come together to recognise the children's achievements. As part of this service (could be a special one, or built into a regular act of appropriate worship) the families and children are then invited to another service/event that the church is holding (if timed to be near a festival, maybe a Mothers' day service, a Christingle or crib service, etc, something that is appealing to non-church families). Following this the church can then invite the attendees to something else they are running or regular worship as appropriate, so smoothing the path from school-based activity to become part of a worshiping community linked to the church.

The YLA does come at a cost for schools, so it may be that this project could be adapted to focus on the ideas of a Church/school community project without the wider YLA curriculum. This is an example of how a school-based project can be linked to church activity. There are a host of other opportunities under the same principle which could be developed. E.g. joint fundraising activities for i.e. a local food bank, curriculum-related projects, a sharing of Harvest, or Christingle where children from school contribute to a church service/receive a certificate/an award etc.