



# Making Connections with Schools

# Have an attitude of service

For even the Son of  
Man did not come to  
be served, but to  
serve...

Mark 10:45



# What are the ways we can engage with schools?

## Outreach

- Listening to children read
- Art/craft competitions (the vicar could judge entries?)
- Attend the Christmas/Summer Fair
- Give church tours to classes
- RE lessons
- Engaging passers by on the way to or from school

## Exploring

- Afterschool clubs
- Lunch clubs
- A service in church for the school
- Regular assemblies
- Special assemblies (e.g. around Easter or Christmas)
- Prayer Spaces

## Discipleship

- Small group sessions e.g. Godly play
- Prayer meetings
- **Church in School**
- **School Chaplaincy**

Some examples...



# Cuppa in the Carpark





Church in School or  
afterschool club



Prayer  
spaces



A step by step guide...

# Initial contact

- First have a think: **Who will be involved? What am I comfortable doing? What is God calling me to do?**
- Be clear about what you can offer but give options and be open to the school's needs
- Email, ring up, visit reception
- Christmas, Easter and Harvest are a great starting point

'I'd like to introduce myself as the children's minister for ...'

'How can we support you this school year?'

'It'd be great to see how we can work together in the near future.'



# Building a relationship and a rhythm

- Get a meeting with the head or RE lead if possible
- Email in term time only
- Email in the new school year and the new calendar year
- Praise the children and school
- Have more than 1 contact in school

# Building a relationship and a rhythm

- Offer a few dates and be reliable
- Get a regular slot and/or get dates in the diary in advance
- Have a clear understanding of timings and resources available
- Double check that it's OK to say a prayer at the end of an assembly

# Engaging the children

- Link content to school values or PHSCE
- Reference things children are interested in or what they might learn at school (e.g. animals)
- Use child friendly language
- PowerPoint, videos and story telling
- Don't assume prior knowledge



These do take practice!

# Church in School ...



# What is a Church in School?

A worshipping community in a school

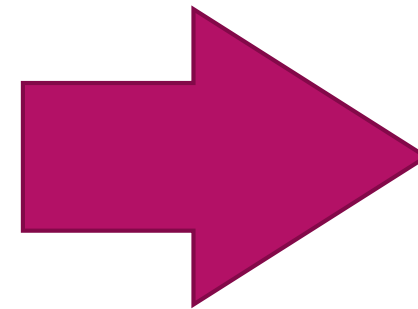


children

teachers and  
school staff

parents  
and carers

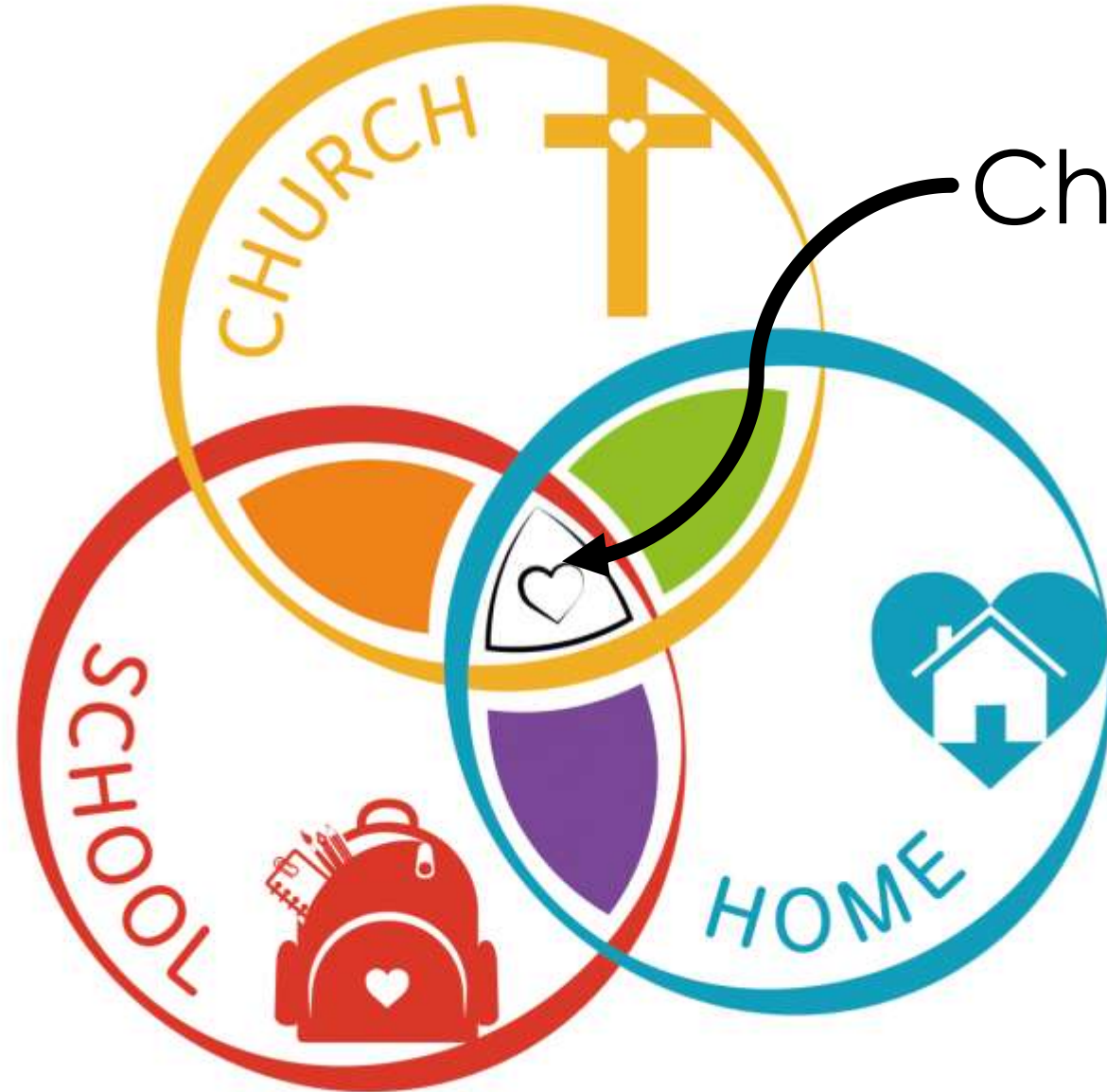
members  
of the local  
church



discipleship  
mission  
sacraments

# Why a Church in School?

## The areas of a child's life:



Church in School

# What is a Church in School?

A worshipping community in a school



Cafe  
Church



Breakfast  
Club



Messy  
Church



# When is a Church in School?

A worshipping community in a school

**Before school**

**After school**

**Monthly / weekly / half termly /  
termly**



# Promotion examples:

THE DETAILS BIT...

2:45-3:15 // drop-in drinks  
for parents

3:15-4:00 // informal café church  
for 5-11s & their families

Games & crafts. Interactive bible teaching.  
Songs, music & more. All free!

*friends, faith & fun*

Every Tuesday in term-time  
The Church of the Good Shepherd, DN3 2PP  
beakondoncaster.co.uk/cogs // 01302 882 861



begins 27 Sept 2022

**Faith & Fun**  
FOR  
**Families**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June  
Playground @ 3.30-4.30pm  
For families of any faith or no faith

**Community Food Festival**  
including giant bubbles, games  
and storytelling!

All families are invited to bring  
cultural food to share for free in  
celebration of our diverse  
community.

Come along with or without food!

# Chaplaincy

“Doing life with young people where they are.”

- Formalises your role within the school
- Could include: assemblies, groups, mentoring
- A chaplain can work with everyone in the school

# How do I become a chaplain?

- The school should know and trust you first ... It's a journey!
- You don't have to be ordained
- Training is available

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Christians and Sheffield Schools website

# A word about safeguarding

## Any schools work

- DBS (less than 5 years old)
- Safeguarding training (Basic awareness and Foundations)

## Regular groups

- Safeguarding training (Leadership)
- Risk assessment
- Have a procedure for if an accident happens
- Accident book
- Follow a disclosure policy

# Useful Resources and websites

- [www.assemblies.org.uk](http://www.assemblies.org.uk)
  - ▶ For assemblies - often includes prayer ideas, videos and presentations – this is what I often use
- [flamecreativekids.blogspot.com](http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com)
  - ▶ Craft and activity ideas, prayer ideas
- [sermons4kids.com](http://sermons4kids.com)
  - ▶ Talks aimed at children

# Useful Resources and websites

- Christians and Sheffield Schools [www.cass-su.org.uk](http://www.cass-su.org.uk) ▶ Good for practical resources, ideas and training
- [prayerspacesinschools.com](http://prayerspacesinschools.com) ▶ Ideas about prayer spaces – could be used for year 6s during STATs time or for children struggling with mainstream school
- [www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com) ▶ Good website to make promotional material like flyers, Facebook posts or posters

# Church House Resource Centre

sheffieldanglican.slls.online



THE DIOCESE OF  
SHEFFIELD  
Resource  
Centre

Books

Puppets

Godly Play

Free Books  
Section

Reminiscence  
Collection

Prayer  
Labyrinth

Teaching  
Resources



rc@sheffield.anglican.org



01709 309 105



Visit our online catalogue  
sheffieldanglican.slls.online



Free online courses at  
bit.ly/church-toolkits

Church House  
95-99 Effingham Street  
Rotherham S65 1BL  
Web: sheffield.anglican.org

# Facebook pages

**Sheffield Diocese Church in School Hub** – will include sharing of resources and ideas for general schools work



**Sheffield Diocese Children's Work Network**

**Sheffield Diocese Youth Work Network**



# Events!

- **Church in Schools Learning Hub in February (date tbc)** – a couple of hours to share ideas, find support and hear children's thought and opinions, contact me for more info or to be kept informed
- **Joined Up Conference 2<sup>nd</sup> March** – for children and youth work, see Facebook for more info or contact Mike North





Here to help!

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